

Beirut appeals for help to end occupation

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanese President Elias Hrawi appealed on Monday for help from the world community to end Israel's occupation of South Lebanon. "We're done with establishing internal peace. What remains is for the world to help us regain our occupied land up to the internationally-recognized border to consolidate our sovereignty," Mr. Hrawi told foreign diplomats in Beirut. Mr. Hrawi called for the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 425 of 1978 stipulating an immediate Israeli withdrawal from South Lebanon on the basis of which Lebanon joined the Arab-Israeli peace process. But three years of U.S.-brokered peace talks between Lebanon and Israel have produced no tangible results yet. Mr. Hrawi said a just and comprehensive peace would come about if peace is achieved between Israel and both Lebanon and Syria.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الراي.

Volume 19 Number 5814

AMMAN TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 1995, SHAABAN 9, 1415

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New cabinet assured of vote of confidence but not sweeping majority

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The government of Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker will in a few days seek a vote of confidence from the Lower House of Parliament, and early expectations are that it will comfortably win that vote.

According to the predictions, the new cabinet is certain to win more votes than the 47 that Sharif Zeid's second cabinet won in 1991, but it will fall short of matching the 68 votes that Mudar Badran's 1989 cabinet won as the first post-elections government.

In all cases, the new government is expected to win more votes than the 48 that Taher Al Masri's cabinet won in 1991 and the 41 votes that the previous government of Abdul Salam Majali received in 1993.

Mr. Badran's agreement with the then 23-strong Muslim Brotherhood bloc in the House was an instrumental factor in enabling his government to obtain the big vote as his policy programme sought to meet 14 demands made by the Islamists, who later joined formally in coalition with him.

The Islamists will be the major factor in preventing the new government from getting a similar number of confidence votes.

Though Sharif Zeid formed his government,

which includes 17 deputies, after consultations with the major blocs in the House, including representatives of the Islamists, the spokesman of the 17-strong Islamic Action Front (IAF) bloc, Hamzeh Mansour, charged that the prime minister "ignored" their parliamentary group. He said Sharif Zeid did not consult the IAF on the formation of the government.

This apparent unhappiness of the Islamists over keeping them out of the consultations over the formation of the government, along with the IAF's ideological opposition to the peace treaty with Israel, will make it certain that the IAF will cast a vote of no confidence in the government.

That means the government will have only 63 votes to compete for in the House, even though earlier indications were that a process of reconciliation between the Islamists and the government was in the making.

IAF sources had said they were expecting the prime minister to consult with them before he announces his government even if they were not to be on his team. And in light of the apparent need of the Islamists to break away from their isolation in the House, observers had said that consulting the Islamists would have been sufficient in putting them in a mood of cooperation with the new cabinet.

A meeting that Sharif Zeid held with the overall leader of the Muslim Brotherhood, Abdul Majid Thuneibat, and IAF Deputy Abdul Rahim Okour prior to the formation of the cabinet did not discuss the composition of the government and Mr. Mansour said it was with Islamist leaders and not the IAF bloc.

"We will have to examine the ministerial team and study the prime minister's neglect of the largest parliamentary bloc in the country," Mr. Mansour said.

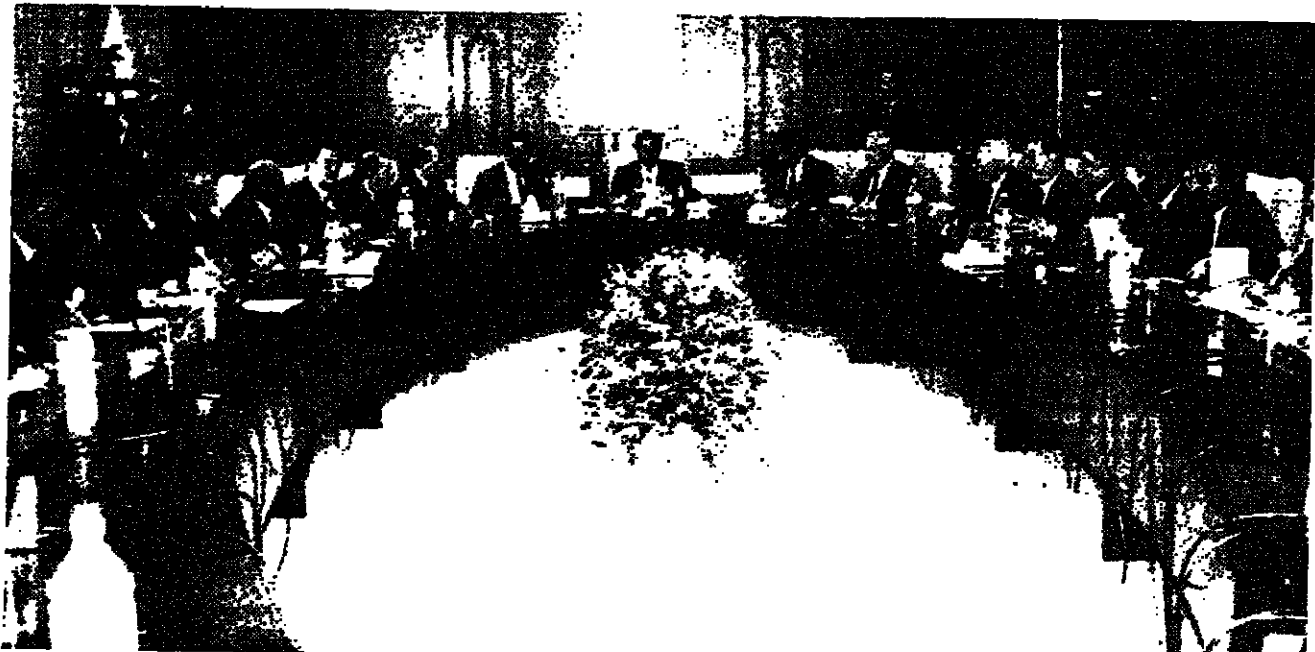
He also said the new government's policy on the peace process will determine their assessment of it, adding that "we will not deviate from our declared principles" on what he called "the surrender treaty" when a vote of confidence is cast on the cabinet.

The IAF earlier said it would oppose any government that would move towards peace with Israel.

Also unhappy with the government are leftist deputies who believe the cabinet is unrepresentative of all political trends in the country.

"The government is a one-colour government and will not be able to face the challenges or implement the great responsibilities outlined in (His Majesty King Hussein's) letter of designation. That is what its composition indicates," said Deputy Bassam

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The Cabinet of Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker holds its first session on Monday (photo by Yousef Allan)

Sharif Zeid urges cabinet to work in harmony, with total commitment

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Monday convened the first meeting of his cabinet sworn in on Sunday and voiced the government's deep pride in the confidence invested in its members and the mission entrusted to them by His Majesty King Hussein.

Stressing that the government would consider the King's letter of designation to the government as a guideline, Sharif Zeid said his government would enhance the concept of institutions and the rule of law, and would complete comprehensive reforms on sound and scientific

basis in accordance with clearly defined plans.

Sharif Zeid stressed that all possible efforts would be exerted towards alleviating the suffering of people, especially unemployment and poverty.

Calling on cabinet members to work with a spirit of teamwork, Sharif Zeid said he wanted to see harmony, with each ministry seeking the highest degrees of integrity, justice and equality.

He emphasized the government's keenness to strengthen the climate of freedom and democracy with full commitment to the Constitution, the National Charter and the

rule of law.

Sharif Zeid said the government would work closely with the legislative authority with a view to serving the citizens and enhancing the democratic process.

Sharif Zeid urged cabinet members to adopt policies designed to strengthen ties with the public and to cut down on bureaucracy.

The cabinet decided to form a committee to draw up the new government policy statement which would be submitted to the Lower House of Parliament.

The cabinet also formed national councils and special-interest committees.

The prime minister and cabinet members Monday received well-wishers who visited the Prime Ministry to offer congratulations.

The callers included former prime ministers, speakers of Parliament and senior government officials in addition to heads of diplomatic missions, professional organisations, universities, tribal chiefs and representatives of Palestinian refugee camps in Jordan.

Sharif Zeid also received a cable of congratulations from Sheikh Khalifeh Ben Salman Al Khalifeh, prime minister of Bahrain.

Papandreou ends visit, says talks successful

AMMAN (Petra) — Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou ended a four-day visit to Jordan on Monday and described his talks with His Majesty King Hussein and government leaders here as successful.

Speaking to Petra shortly before his departure with his delegation, the Greek premier said the Middle East peace process was following a firm course and expressed hope that a comprehensive and just peace settlement would be reached in the region.

Mr. Papandreou said that his visit had opened a new chapter in Jordanian-Greek ties and paved the way for enhanced cooperation in tourism and culture.

A Greek cultural centre will soon open in Amman marking the start of a long process of close cooperation between the two countries, especially in the peace era, he said.

The Greek premier voiced appreciation of the hospitality accorded to him and his delegation by King Hussein and the Jordanian government.

Mr. Papandreou was seen off with an official farewell ceremony attended by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, former Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, cabinet members and senior officials.



An Israeli guard turns back a Palestinian against the widening of the Jewish settlement of Ephrat (AFP photo)

Arafat, Peres vow to extend self-rule

JERESH CROSSING (Agencies) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres vowed to overcome all the hurdles blocking the extension of Palestinian self-rule after talks here Monday.

In Cairo, Israeli and Palestinian officials resumed negotiations on elections to an autonomy council and the powers and make-up of the body.

Mr. Peres also planned two days of talks in Paris beginning Tuesday as part of a drive to spark new life into the stalled Middle East peace process, France said.

Mr. Peres is to meet President Francois Mitterrand, Prime Minister Edouard Balladur and Foreign Minister Alain Juppe in Paris before flying on to Latin America, the French foreign ministry said.

Their talks will focus on economic ties between Israel and Europe as well as on the peace deal, which has foundered over the next stages of the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accord reached in late 1993.

Mr. Arafat and Mr. Peres, who last met on Dec. 21, both emerged in a positive mood from two hours of talks at the Erez crossing into the Gaza Strip.

"We ... have to overcome a lot of difficulties but we think we'll get an agreement on the second phase (of autonomy)," Mr. Peres told a press conference. "While we are analysing difficulties, we are also seeing solutions."

"In spite of all the worries and scepticism, the Oslo agreement is being implemented, although we are late in some ways."

"We are determined to help the Palestinian Authority to fulfil autonomy and resolve the security problems," Mr. Peres said.

The two men announced agreement on "safe passages," which will enable Palestinians to travel from the Gaza Strip to the self-rule enclave of Jericho via Israel.

"We have agreed to safe passages on both ways between Jericho and Gaza," Mr. Peres said.

However, only women older than 35 and men older than 50 will be able to travel without hindrance unless they are members of the Palestinian Authority, the minister explained.

Mr. Arafat called the meeting "important and fruitful."

"There was an atmosphere of understanding. We are determined to understand more and more the security problems of Israel and to see what we can do to overcome difficulties."

Mr. Arafat said the fate of Palestinian prisoners was also raised, especially women.

Mr. Peres noted that Israel had set up a ministerial committee to handle the prisoner issue. "We'll do our utmost to facilitate a solution," he said.

Meanwhile in Cairo, Saeb Erakat, head of the Palestinian delegation to the talks on elections, said the PLO wanted the future president of the self-rule council to be elected by direct suffrage.

"We have proposed that the president of the autonomy council be elected separately by direct vote," Dr. Erakat told journalists at the end of the afternoon's talks.

But he said discussions were continuing "on all aspects of the elections, including the structure and nature of the council."

The Cairo talks were to focus only on election procedures, avoiding sensitive security issues such as an Israeli troop redeployment, which has threatened to scupper the talks several times.

The redeployment, which was to precede elections, will be left to higher levels to resolve, they added.

The Palestinian negotiators are led by Dr. Erakat and the Israelis by Brigadier-General Gadi Zohar, head of the "civilian administration" in the West Bank.

A dispute over the venue of the talks held up the start of the negotiations by two hours with both sides insisting their hotel should be the site.

The Israeli delegation gave

Swearing-in

NEWLY-appointed Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Samih Darwazah Monday takes the oath of office before His Majesty King Hussein in a ceremony held at the Royal Court.

Mr. Darwazah was abroad when the newly-appointed government of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker was sworn in Sunday.



The ceremony Monday was attended by Sharif Zeid and Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem.

Perry flies over Golan amid Israel- Iran nuclear concern

MENARA (Agencies) — U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry got a bird's-eye view on Monday of the Golan Heights, where American troops may be stationed in what Israel called a "symbolic presence" to keep a future peace with Syria.

"I went up to the Golan today to get a first-hand picture of the strategic situation. Anyone who goes there can tell how strategic it is," Mr. Perry told reporters after viewing the heights from a helicopter and an observation point in Israel.

Mr. Perry followed a long-established practice by U.S. leaders of not setting foot on territory under Israeli military occupation. He was briefed by Israeli generals on the Heights.

Some 30 Jewish settlers demonstrated as Mr. Perry flew by the strategic plateau.

The protest took place by Menara, a collective farming village close to the border with Lebanon, from where Mr. Perry observed the Golan before taking a helicopter.

Demonstrators, who were tethered to the ground a hot-air balloon bearing the slogan "No moving from the Golan," carried placards saying: "We will not move from the Golan."

As on Sunday, the first day of a two-day trip to Israel, Mr. Perry said it was premature to discuss stationing U.S. soldiers on the Golan.

The fate of the heights and

the nature of peace are the main sticking-points in deadlocked Israeli-Syrian negotiations.

"The question of U.S. involvement is premature at this time. Until we have the peace plan and then the details and what kind of participation is requested, it's premature," Mr. Perry said at a news conference.

On Sunday, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres indicated a U.S. trip to ensure that Israel and Syria would never again do battle on the Heights where they fought in 1967 and 1973.

A main focus of Mr. Perry's talks with Mr. Peres and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was the possibility that Iran was developing nuclear weapons.

"We believe Iran is trying to develop a nuclear weapon programme. We believe it would be many, many years until they achieve such a capability. There are some things they might be able to do to short-cut that time," Mr. Perry said.

He said the nuclear nations of the former Soviet Union were the likeliest source for technical assistance, nuclear fuel or the weapons themselves.

"I don't think there's any likelihood of those weapons getting to Iran," he said, but added the United States intended to do what it could to prevent any such transfer.

Iranian leader Ayatollah

Ali Khamenei said Monday. Israel will never use its nuclear arsenal because the Jewish state would potentially expose itself to any fallout.

"The atomic bomb is not a weapon which can be used by the Zionist state," Ayatollah Khamenei said, quoted by the state television.

"No matter where it decides to use them, Israelis themselves will be exposed to its impact, and radiation if used in the Middle East."

Israel has never confirmed or denied Western estimates that it possesses about 100 nuclear warheads, sticking to the line adopted in 1965 that it would not be the first country to introduce nuclear weapons to the region.

Ayatollah Khamenei said Israel lacked any "real power" to fight a war and criticised Arab countries for not being able to remove the "cancerous tumor" in the region "despite having the weapons and the manpower."

Arab states failed to defeat Israel because they "lack faith and a sense of responsibility," he said.

Israel has charged that Iran could have a nuclear capability within the next few years and has allegedly warned it may strike Iranian nuclear reactors if Tehran continues its nuclear programme.

Israeli jets bombed an Iraqi nuclear reactor in 1981.

But the Iranian foreign ministry countered that Israel

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Russians, Chechens fight pitched battles for Grozny

GROZNY (Agencies) — Russian infantry and Chechen rebels were locked in pitched street battles here Sunday after the Russians poured in thousands of infantrymen in a massive assault on the presidential palace.

For the first time in the battle for Grozny which began on Dec. 31, there were clear battle lines with Russian infantrymen trying to force their way to the palace, and the rebels throwing all their strength in its defence.

The Russian attack was spearheaded by paratroopers, special forces and marines — a change of tactics from the disastrous tank assault which failed at the cost of heavy casualties over the New Year weekend.

Chechen fighters said the Russian attack was strongest 700 metres west of the palace, core of the Chechen resistance since Russian forces entered the tiny republic to crush its three-year rebellion from Moscow.

But street battles were also raging to the north and east of the palace.

A Western cameraman who spent part of Sunday

night in the heavily damaged palace said Russian tanks were becoming increasingly accurate in their shelling of the building.

"The Russians have the train station and the central market but we still hold the presidential palace. Sometimes it's burning but we are still inside," said Hamzat Bechoyev, a 40-year-old Chechen fighter, after a night of intense clashes.

Before darkness brought fresh fighting, another Chechen in the palace said: "We'll all keep on fighting to the end. If we lose the war in the city, we'll fight in the mountains. If we lose there, we'll fight in Moscow."

In Moscow, the Russian government, conceded that the forces it sent to crush the drive for Chechnya's independence had met "stubborn resistance."

A statement by the government's press service said some Chechen separatist fighters were regrouping and preparing for a guerrilla campaign from the mountains.

But, with people in Russia on a national holiday, there was little information on the

army's unpopular foray into the north Caucasus which has triggered speculation about President Boris Yeltsin's grip on power.

Officials in Ingushetia, Chechnya's neighbour to the west, said they had seen at least 75 heavy tanks passing through on their way to the rebel region early on Monday morning.

A correspondent for Interfax news agency in Grozny said Russian forces now controlled two-thirds of the city.

The multi-storey palace, headquarters of separatist leader Dzhokhar Dudayev and a sanctuary for some of the civilians fleeing the fighting, has become the symbol of Chechnya's revolt against Russian rule.

There was no firm word on Mr. Dudayev's whereabouts. Russian government statements say the 50-year-old former Soviet air force general left Grozny last Friday for southern Chechnya. But this has not been confirmed by the Chechens.

Chechen official Hamata

(Continued on page 7)

JPA warning to 3 weekly tabloids stirs controversy

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Three weekly newspapers, two of which have the largest circulation rate among all tabloids in Jordan, have come under heavy attack from the Jordan Press Association (JPA).

Shihani, Al Bilad and Hawadeth Al Sa'ah are accused of overstating facts and publishing material that "infringe upon the general ethics and moral standards."

In a memo sent to the chief editors of the weeklies, the JPA threatened to refer them to a disciplinary council if they refuse to comply with the association's laws and regulations.

A study carried out by the JPA's council over the past two months on issues selected randomly from the three weeklies found that the newspapers are publishing "fabricated stories, obscene photos and inaccurate news."

The JPA argues that Article 40-A of the Press and Publications Law of 1993 bans the publication "of any news, reports, letters and photos that are in contradiction with the general ethics and morals."

JPA President Suleiman Qudah cited Article 50-A of the law makes journalists liable for prosecution if they did not comply with the law or any other law that is related to the journalism profession.

Mr. Qudah said the association would take punitive measures if the three weeklies continue to publish news and photos that are incompatible with the accepted norms and morals.

Even the language used is inappropriate, said Mr. Qudah. "There is a tremendous exaggeration and overstatement of facts and issues," he said.

Alli-Hariri, managing editor of Hawadeth Al Sa'ah, says this is not true. "I challenge everyone if they can find a fabricated story or crime published in our newspaper," he said.

Jihad Momani, managing editor of Shihani, also refuted the allegations. He says the crime page in the weekly tabloid is translated from a German newspaper but dates and names have not been changed. Publishing photos mainly of semi-naked women is not part of the newspaper's policy either, he said.

"There was once a mistake when a coloured photo of a woman was published in black and white. It made her look as if she were not wearing anything," he said.

Mr. Momani admitted this was not the only time. The weekly, with a circulation of over 65,000, also published photos of women on Eilat beach a couple of months ago.

But Mr. Momani said he did not believe that this was the reason behind the JPA's attack on the three weeklies.

"It's because we are an opposition newspaper that they target us," he asserted. "Because people like and buy our newspaper, the so-called colleagues (who work for other newspapers) have a certain interest (in fighting us)."

Since its establishment in 1983, Shihani has been a favourite platform for the opposition. Deputy Toujan Faisal, former deputies Mansour Murad and Fakhri

Kawar as well as independent Islamist Osama Aknan have all been given the forum and even the advantage of having weekly columns to express their views vis-a-vis the government's policies and practices. Former Health Minister Abdul Rahim Malhas chose Shihani when he wanted to publish information concerning corruption in the health sector.

Shihani is also known for its harsh criticism and sarcastic caricatures of government officials, their policies and practices. Humorous anecdotes involving senior officials are the newspaper's speciality for pages 2 and 3.

Crimes, accidents and corruption cases are favoured by Shihani's administration over "unimportant" political stories.

"Shihani tries to expose government malpractices and corruption to the public," Mr. Momani said. "We are interested in the issues that are of interest to the people. Readers would be more interested in a bus accident that took the life of tens of people than in the visit of some foreign diplomatic team to the country."

The Islamic weekly Al Sabeel was the first to announce the JPA's attack on the three weeklies. Its editor-in-chief and member of the JPA's board, Hilmi Al Asmar, said the association was very reluctant to make such a decision.

"It was after countless complaints and continued research that we decided to make a move," Mr. Asmar said. "Such fabricated and immoral news have a bad influence on the public. We have received numerous complaints from the public protesting the publication of such photos and news that might be harmful to their children."

"The media should present to the public what they need to solve problems instead of publishing a photo of a naked (woman) that makes us sick," he said.

Nidal Mansour, chief editor of Al Bilad, says the JPA cannot make a final judgement. What is moral or immoral is relative from one person to another, he said.

"Infringing upon the general ethics" is too general a term. I would not consider a woman wearing a short skirt as "infringing upon the general ethics," Mr. Mansour said. Al Bilad has a distribution rate of about 15,000 to 20,000.

Mr. Mansour said the association should not have taken any decision against the three weeklies without discussing it first with the chief editors of the publications. He accused the association of having ulterior motives.

"Why would the JPA take a move now?" he questioned. "Why didn't they take an action when more important issues were at stake?"

Mr. Mansour said the association did not help journalists when the Press and Publications Department took some of them to court after the introduction of democracy in Jordan in 1989.

He claimed the association was not acting on its own initiative. He implied the government might be influencing the JPA's move "to muzzle freedom of speech under the slogan of protecting public freedoms."



RECONSTRUCTION: Hisham Karamah, pyrotechnician Solifere, the society for reconstruction of Beirut, gives orders by mobile phone before the destruction of a building in the old city centre of Beirut. France Telecom and Finland

telecom companies fight over the Lebanese market of the private mobile telephony, a must to compensate the lack of public phones (AFP photo)

Jordanian businessmen to get familiarisation lectures on GSP

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanian businessmen are expected to be given a detailed insight into how to take advantage of the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) that developed countries offer to developing countries during a three-day seminar to be held in Amman this month.

The Jan. 22-24 seminar, scheduled to be held at the Chamber of Industry in Jabal Amman, is organised by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and will be the second of its kind to take place in Jordan. The first was held in 1991.

"International experts in GSP will deliver lectures and seek to familiarise Jordanian exporters with the advantages of the system and how they could use it to their benefit," said Nadia Haddad, a senior official of the Chamber of Industry.

"We believe that it is a very important event for Jordanian exporters and we hope that there would be strong and positive response to the invitations that we have sent out," Ms. Haddad said.

The GSP is designed to help exporters from developing countries to offer competitive prices in the markets of developed countries by reducing customs duties on their exports at the time of

entry to the importing developed country.

While the system is relatively simple, there it also lays down a series of conditions and requirements that the exporter should meet to qualify for the preferential treatment, Ms. Haddad said. Jordan is a member of the agreement of GSP.

According to officials, Jordanian exporters have not been able to fully take advantage of the available opportunity mostly because they were not fully aware of its various aspects, a shortcoming that is expected to be addressed at the Jan. 22-24 seminar in Amman.

Nearly 20 countries from the developed world are signatories to the GSP accord, making it an attractive avenue to boost exports if exporters are willing to abide by the guidelines and part of the agreement.

The Italian government is financing the seminar. A 32-member Italian team representing the Arab-Italian Chamber of Commerce on the third day of the event and try to familiarise the audience with the Italian experience with GSP. Ms. Haddad told the Jordan Times.

In addition to UNCTAD officials, lecturers addressing the seminar would include American European experts in international trade practices related to GSP and Japanese.

In the opinion of World Bank experts, limitations

adopted by most industrial countries and peculiar features of the economic policies of beneficiaries of the system, the developing countries have not gained much from GSP. They point out that the imports of the U.S., a signatory to the GSP accord, from GSP beneficiary countries are less than half of its overall imports from developing countries and less than 15 per cent of the trade covered under GSP are extended preferential treatment in customs duties.

Recent studies have also found that imports into the European Union countries from non-GSP developing countries were growing at a faster rate than those from countries covered under GSP.

The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), which has been updated into the World Trade Organisation (WTO) to which Jordan is seeking entry, allows GSP trade under controlled conditions, however, the scope of improving trade under GATT/WTO is seen much more attractive to the developing countries rather than confining themselves to GSP.

Despite the limited international impact of GSP, Jordan stands to benefit from the system since the Kingdom has enough room to manoeuvre, given the relatively low level of its utilisation of the agreement.

Baghdad blast kills 12-year-old

BAGHDAD (R) — A bomb hidden in a tin killed a 12-year-old Iraqi boy in a residential area of Baghdad, Babel newspaper said on Monday.

The explosion on Sunday afternoon tore the child's body apart, said the newspaper, which is owned by President Saddam Hussein's son Uday.

It blamed the blast on "criminals" but did not say who was behind the first such explosion of the New Year.

"The child was playing with a tin thrown in the area in which the criminals with rancour against our people had hidden the explosive charge," Babel said.

It said the explosion "ripped the body of this innocent child apart."

Babel said the blast took place in Al Sha'ib township in Baghdad.

The explosion was not reported by the official Iraqi News Agency (INA) or by state-run newspapers, television or radio.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attack. In the past Iraq has pointed the finger at Israeli agents or Iran.

In October last year a bomb exploded in a prayer room at Iraq's Ministry of Religious Affairs, killing a senior official and seriously wounding five people.

Lady fights to save Beirut from bulldozers

BEIRUT (AFP) — Lady Yvonne Cochrane and her Association for the Protection of Ancient Sites and Homes are waging an uphill struggle to save old Beirut from the bulldozers of post-war reconstruction.

The group, known by its French acronym APSAD, is back in business after a paralysis during the 1975-1990 civil war and its members now meet again in her 19th century palace, which itself bears scars from the conflict.

"Beirut was once a jewel of the Mediterranean. It has become a garbage dump," Lady Cochrane said bluntly.

"The Lebanese have become like demented ants. They're building without restraint, and as a result we're covering the country with shantytowns. We're killing Lebanon," she told AFP.

Born to the wealthy Lebanese Surock family and widow of an Irish lord, Lady Cochrane is highly critical of the post-war reconstruction projects, especially in the city centre of Beirut.

She denounced the belief of many that Beirut is destined to become a new Hong Kong.

"This dream does not correspond to reality: the Lebanese are not big businessmen but excellent merchants," said Lady Cochrane, adding she was "sometimes discouraged but still hopeful."

APSAD, whose executive committee includes architects, bankers, businessmen and art lovers, is fighting "for our roots," she said, denying it was elitist.

"We have lost our roots. Our fight is not just to save some old stones, it's a battle for the environment, for a better quality of life."

"If we must rebuild, it should be done in the appropriate manner," she insisted, charging that bulldozers were only interested in financial gains.

"We're surrounded by concrete. There are no public parks or private gardens left. It's tragic for children and for

the future."

Her group has limited financial means to confront what Lady Cochrane described as the "archaeological massacre" of Beirut and its "ignoramus municipality."

The government has promised APSAD \$12,000 in annual assistance but the group counts more on the press to stop bulldozers from destroying the last buildings of the old Beirut to make way for modern buildings.

"We have nothing left but persuasion," she said. Prime Minister Rafik Hariri — the key backer of Lebanon's multi-billion reconstruction projects — altered a large part of his initial plan for the city centre after facing criticism from abroad, Lady Cochrane said. "After the destruction of several splendid houses, in the city centre, he protected a considerable number of other buildings," she said.

According to Lady Cochrane, some 200 old buildings have been spared destruction by Solifere, the company in charge of rebuilding Beirut city centre and in which Mr. Hariri is a key shareholder.

Lady Cochrane admitted however that despite being staunchly opposed to Solifere's plans, she has started to cooperate with the firm's French advisor, Jean-Paul Lebas.

"We have proposed to Mr. Hariri plans to safeguard an entire neighbourhood of Beirut and he has agreed," he said.

Her next step is to rally around APSAD the assistance of bankers and industrialists in an effort to finance the rehabilitation of her city.

"Five to six years from now, Lebanon will be hit by a tragic real estate crisis because all these buildings being erected are destined to remain empty."

"But this crisis will work to our advantage. That is when we can really rebuild properly and Lebanon could once again become the garden of the Middle East," she predicted.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Body found in dam reservoir

AMMAN (Petra) — A civil defence team on Monday pulled out the body of an unidentified man aged about 55 years from the King Talal Dam reservoir, the Civil Defence Department (CDD) said. It said local officials employed at the dam by the Jordan Valley Authority had spotted the body. No details were available.

Jury selection begins in New York trial

NEW YORK (AFP) — Lawyers began questioning potential jurors under tight security about their religious beliefs and their views on Islam Monday for the trial of a dozen people accused of plotting to bomb New York landmarks. The first day of jury selection opened in the downtown Manhattan court, where Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman and 11 others accused in the case will stand trial. City police conducting intensive searches were backed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, who have been guarding Judge Michael Mukasey and prosecutors for the past two months.

Iranian minister slams Iraqi policy

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Hashemi on Monday slammed Iraq's policy towards its Gulf neighbours at the start of a three-day visit to Kuwait. "Baghdad's continuing policy of destabilisation in the region does not benefit any state in the Gulf, including Iraq, in the search for peace and stability," the official Kuwait agency KUNA quoted Mr. Hashemi as saying here. He said Iran's relations with Iraq were "not satisfactory," and urged Baghdad to implement U.N. Security Council resolutions relating to the 1991 Gulf war in which Iraqi forces were ousted from Kuwait. "We back these resolutions and Iraq, which has recognised the sovereignty of Kuwait, must conform to all the other international demands," Mr. Hashemi said, adding Tehran rejected "any changes to the borders in the Gulf region."

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18:30 Le Intropides
19:00 News in French
19:30 Practical Guide to the Universe
19:45 Varieties
20:00 The Detectives
20:30 The Law and Harry McGraw
21:00 Egonom
22:00 News in English
22:30 Wild Pines
23:10 The Piglet Files

PRAYER TIMES

05:50 Fajr
06:50 Sunrise/Dawn
11:00 Noon
14:20 Asr
16:52 Maghreb
18:14 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swiffish, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel.
637785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel.
637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrace Church Tel. 623646

Church of the Annunciation Tel.

625411

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel.
625413
Armenian Catholic Church Tel.
71331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel.
77261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Assiout International Church Tel.
625226
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel.
624328
German-speaking Evangelical
Congregation Tel. 664195
The Church of Jesus Christ of
Latter-Day Saints Tel. 659322
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675591
The Evangelical Local Church in
Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department
of Meteorology.

No change in weather conditions
is expected. Winds will be south-
easterly moderate with clouds
appearing at different altitudes. In
Aqaba, it will be warm with winds
northerly moderate and sea calm.

Min./Max. temp. 4/15
Aqaba 10/20
Deserts 3/16
Jordan Valley 10/20
Yesterday's high temperatures:

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Amman 15, Aqaba 19. Humidity
readings: Amman 48 per cent,
Aqaba 65 per cent.

USEFUL
TELEPHONE
NUMBERS
NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Nasser Ibrahim 662935
Dr. Youssef Rashid 896201
Dr. Jamil Tarif 794710
Dr. Fayez Al Dabbas 759153
Firas pharmacy 661912
Fertous pharmacy 783336
Al Asma pharmacy 637053
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamsi pharmacy 637660
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 847652

IRBID:
Dr. Akram Momani 248795
Alquds pharmacy (-)

ZARQA:
Dr. Hussein Al Haj 983444
Khalifah pharmacy 983417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 630341
Rescue 199
Rescue Police 192 637111, 637777
Fire Brigade 637101
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 608080
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Amman Municipality 661176
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information
(directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone
Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power
Company 636381

RJ Flight Information

08-53200
Queen Alia Int'l. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Husseini Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6
Akilich Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6
Jabal Amman Maternity 642622
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Fakouline, Shamsani 664171/4
Shamsani Hospital 649131
University Hospital 845945
Al-Mansour Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37
Al-Ash, Abdali 644164/5
Italian, Al-Muhajira 777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafich 773111/26
Army, Marka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 686101
Amal Hospital 874153
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983523
Zarqa National Hospital 09983523
Bn Sina Hospital (09)900560
Al Hama Modern Hospital (09)999990
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)222555
Great Jubilee Hospital (02)222275
Bn Al Nadej Hospital (02)247100

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA
INTERNATIONAL
AIRPORT

This information is supplied by
Royal Jordanian (RJ) information
department at the Queen Alia In-
ternational Airport Tel. (08)53200-
5, where it should always be ver-
ified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ)
Flights
(Terminal 1)

04:00 Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
07:20 Damascus (RJ)
09:15 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:55 Moscow, Dubai (RJ)
10:15 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
14:35 London (RJ)
14:45 Frankfurt (RJ)
14:50 Cairo (RJ)
17:30 Chicago, Amsterdam (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

04:20 Vienna (OS)
17:45 Rome (AZ)
20:00 Aden (DY)
20:30 Beirut (ME)
23:20 Amsterdam (KL)
23:50 Bucharest (RO)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ)
Flights
(Terminal 1)

07:00 Aqaba (RJ)
08:15 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
11:00 Montreal, Toronto (RJ)
11:30 Vienna, Brussels (RJ)
11:35 Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
11:45 Paris (RJ)
12:00 London (RJ)
12:20 Frankfurt (RJ)
12:45 Cairo (RJ)
13:00 Athens (RJ)
13:20 Jeddah (RJ)
21:45 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
22:10 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

05:45 Damascus, Paris (AF)
18:15 Larnaca, Rome (AZ)
13:50 Vienna (OS)
14:40 Khartoum (SD)
18:40 Damascus (AZ)
21:00 Aden (DY)

HIJAZ RAILWAY

Dep. Amman 8:00 a.m. every Monday
Arr. Damascus 3:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus 7:25 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman 3:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower prices in fils per kg.

Apple 700/400
Banana 680
Banana (Malakuma) 620
Cabbage 200/100
Carrot 200/180
Cauliflower 220/160
Cucumber (large) 180/150
Cucumber (small) 420/280
Eggplant (small) 320/300
Garlic 450/350
Grape Fruit 240/160
Lemon 220/150
Marrow (large) 140/100
Marrow (small) 320/200
Onion (green) 250/160
Onion (dry) 350/280
Orange 550/300
Pepper (hot) 540/300
Pepper (sweet) 650/400
Potato 350/200
Radish 200/100
Spinach 250/180
Spring Beans 900/500
Tomato 380/200

Sri Lanka truce holds in northeast

COLOMBO (AFP) — Sri Lankan security forces and separatist Tamil rebels continued to observe a truce for a second straight day Monday, as defence authorities took further measures to prevent violations, officials said.

Barring one "very minor incident" no violations were reported by mid-day Monday since the truce between troops and the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) came into effect Sunday in the war-torn northeast of the island, officials said.

"Everyone is holding their fire. Up to now we have not received any reports of violence of any sort," said military spokesman Brigadier Nihal Jayakody.

Troops at Iyakkachchi camp in the north had reported "sighting" a group of Tamil guerrillas Sunday within the demilitarised zone, but the issue was quickly resolved, Brig. Jayakody said.

"It was a bit of a misunderstanding. We are not even

treating it as an incident. The message has still to trickle down to their ranks. We have sorted it out," Brig. Jayakody said.

Under the truce agreement signed between President Chandrika Kumaratunga and LTTE supremo Velupillai Prabhakaran, both sides agreed to a 600-metre demilitarised zone in the northeast.

Six peace committees headed by representatives from Norway, Netherlands and Canada have been set up to monitor the truce. The foreign observers are due here in the next couple of days.

To ensure there were no violations, both sides were in contact through direct radio links set up Sunday, military officials said.

Police chief Frank De Silva has ordered police in the northeast not to carry out any action that could be construed as a truce violation

and to refer crucial decisions to regional military commanders.

"This means that police manning checkpoints can no longer arrest a person on suspicion without referring the matter to the top army officer in that area," a defence official said.

Police had set up dozens of checkpoints, to prevent movement of LTTE guerrillas between their bases and towns and villages in the northeast where they want to set up a separate Tamil homeland.

The truce accord allows unarmed LTTE cadres to move into populated areas. This has prompted concern among rival Tamil groups who fear the LTTE will try to strengthen their presence in the east.

The LTTE controls large parts of the north but have been confined mainly to jungles in the east since a major army offensive against

them in 1991.

The government has also permitted fishing in specified areas off the northern coast under the truce government sealed Thursday after two rounds of peace talks in the LTTE stronghold of northern Jaffna.

However, fishing will be restricted within a two nautical mile zone along the coast, the official said.

Fishing had been banned off the entire northern coast since June 1990 when fighting renewed between government troops and LTTE guerrillas to prevent rebels from using sea routes to mount attacks on coastal military facilities.

Shortly after the truce took effect, the LTTE also announced that it was operating a day-time ferry across the Jaffna lagoon to allow civilians to travel between the rebel-controlled northern Jaffna peninsula and the mainland.



Jain ascetic Sahajmuni Maharaj, aged 62 who has been fasting for world peace in a north Bombay suburb for the past 201 days is carried aloft to a public reception in his honour which was attended by several hundred thousand devotees. Sahajmuni was to finish his fast Sunday but an aide said he would do so only after sunrise Monday as Jainism, a 2,400 year-old offshoot of Hinduism, does not permit eating between sunset and sunrise (AFP photo)

Monk breaks 201-day fast for world peace

BOMBAY (AFP) — An Indian ascetic broke his 201-day fast for world peace at a ceremony Monday at his north Indian religious community attended by fellow monks and nuns.

Sahajmuni Maharaj, 62, ate his first solid food in nearly seven months just after sunrise Monday at the House of Non-Violence here, his assistants said.

Bombay's normally bustling wholesale textile markets were closed to honour the breaking of the fast by the Jain ascetic, whose feat has captured the imagination of this Indian commercial capital.

Sahajmuni has been living only on two glasses of warm water a day since embarking on his marathon fast.

His followers said Sahajmuni had set record by going without solid food for 201 days, beating the 182 days set by Mahavir, a founder of Jainism, a 2,400-year-old offshoot of Hinduism.

Tens of thousands of people have congregated daily outside the House of Non-Violence in the wealthy Bombay suburb of Khari to receive his blessing or catch a glimpse of the monk.

Jains, who number more than three million and count among them some of India's most successful businessmen, are strict vegetarians, eating nothing grown beneath the soil, and are not allowed to kill any living thing.

Like other Jain ascetics, Sahajmuni wears only an un-

stitched white cotton robe. A mask covers his nose and mouth so that he does not inhale insects or microscopic creatures.

Jain ascetics never travel by mechanised transport, fearing the machines could crush insects. They travel on foot, sweeping the path before them with a broom or employing someone to do so.

Sahajmuni, who reportedly left home at the age of 12 and joined a monastic group of Jain ascetics, is a veteran faster. A pamphlet handed out by his aides says he first went without food, for three weeks, in 1964.

He fasted every year after that, gradually increasing the number of consecutive days to 131 in 1993.

N. Korea to lift curbs on imports from U.S.

TOKYO (R) — North Korea said Monday it would lift restrictions on U.S. "commodity" imports and on the entry of U.S. merchant shipping into its ports later this month as part of an accord with Washington.

"To implement the framework agreement, the Administration Council (cabinet) of the DPRK (North Korea) has decided to lift from mid-January the restrictions on the import of U.S. commodities, and the ban on the entry of U.S. trading ships into DPRK ports in trade dealings between the DPRK and other countries," a spokesman for North Korea's Foreign Ministry told the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA).

Under an agreement between Pyongyang and Washington reached last October, the countries were to lower barriers between them in trade and investment, including curbs on telecommunications and financial transactions, "within three months of the date of the agreement," the spokesman told KCNA, monitored in Tokyo.

"The restrictions on the import of U.S. commodities and the ban on the port call of U.S. trading ships are all of the restrictions we have applied in our economic and trade relations with the United States," he said.

"This means we have completely fulfilled our obligation under the provision on the reduction of the barriers to trade and investment stipulated in the DPRK-U.S. framework agreement."

The KCNA report did not specify what the "U.S. commodities" were.

The move was "part of the work for the full normalisation of political and economic relations" between North Korea and the United States," the North Korean spokesman said.

Under the accord reached in Geneva, the United States and North Korea would discuss setting up liaison offices in each other's capitals in a step towards normalising bilateral ties.

The October accord defused a major international crisis that had brought threats of economic sanctions against North Korea and even fears of renewed conflict.

The United States and its allies suspected that North Korea had siphoned off nuclear fuel from its one working reactor to try to develop and atomic bomb. Pyongyang bluntly denies the charges.

Relations between the United States and North Korea had improved dramatically following the accord under which Pyongyang agreed to freeze its nuclear programmes in return for new nuclear power facilities that would almost eliminate the possibility of it producing weapons-grade plutonium.

The United States welcomed North Korea's decision Monday and said it would be examining its own steps to improve ties with Pyongyang.

North Korea's announcement came on the eve of a new round of talks by the United States, South Korea and Japan on funding \$4 billion in new nuclear technology as part of the North Korea nuclear deal.

Southern Africa warned of drought as rains fail

HARARE (R) — Southern Africa, still emerging from the worst drought this century, faces another critical water shortage if heavy and sustained rains do not fall in the next two months, a regional weather body said.

"Prolonged soaking rainfall is needed over the following two months if a region-wide drought is to be averted," said the early warning unit of the 11-nation Southern African Development Community (SADC), stretching from Tanzania to South Africa.

Richard Masundire, spokesman for the unit, added: "Our message to SADC countries is that they should start now to make preparations in case the drought indeed grips the region, although there is still some hope the rains could come between now and February."

Southern Africa's summer rains, due between October and February, have failed in several countries. Weather experts blame this on the El Nino phenomenon, in which a huge mass of warmer-than-usual water in the Pacific

Ocean draws away the rains from southern Africa.

Some rain did fall in several countries just before Christmas, but not enough, and the results are beginning to take their toll.

Zimbabwe has already banned exports of the staple maize until next year and said it could be forced to sell or kill 5,000 of its 80,000 elephants this year because of a shortage of water.

The SADC unit said crop harvests in parts or all of member nations Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe were now critically dependent on sustained and heavy rains.

"But according to the latest forecast, the outlook for the early part of January remains bleak, with generally light and patchy precipitation punctuated by longer dry periods than expected," the unit said in a report.

It noted that some SADC states such as Angola and northern parts of Mozambique, Namibia and Botswana and Tanzania continued to receive "generally satisfactory rainfall."

Tears as veterans watch Filipino war ceremonies

LINGAYEN BEACH, Philippines (R) — Watched by teary-eyed war veterans, Philippine Marines Monday stormed the beaches of Lingayen Gulf in a re-enactment of the World War II invasion that helped destroy Japan's military empire in South East Asia.

Explosions lit up the beaches and World War II fighters and dive-bombers simulated aerial dogfights to mark the 50th anniversary of the U.S.-led landings that led to liberation of the Philippines from three years of Japanese occupation.

President Fidel Ramos, who viewed the ceremony from a grandstand, expressed hope that the world had seen the last of its global wars.

"Today, quite propitiously, after the cold war, it has become plain that we are entering an era of enduring global peace which has emerged as an attainable reality," he said.

"As we near the end of this century, there is solid hope that we have seen the last of the global wars."

It was Jan. 9, 1945 when an allied armada of more than 800 ships carrying 68,000 men hit the beaches of Lingayen in Pangasinan province, 180 kilometres north of Manila, to start an offensive against Japanese forces occupying the main island of Luzon.

The invasion set the stage for the recapture of Manila and eventually of other Japanese-held territory in South East Asia.

Japanese Ambassador Yoshifumi Matsuda said in a speech that the people of his country had learned a lesson.

"The tragedy of that war has taught us Japanese that peace is vital and precious indeed," he said.

"Reflecting upon the past with a deep sense of remorse and regret, we Japanese have endeavoured to promote friendship and trust with the peoples of Asia."

The allies took the beaches of Lingayen virtually unopposed, in contrast to the heavy fighting that marked the landings the previous October on Leyte Island in the central Philippines.

The Japanese commander in the Philippines, General Tomoyuki Yamashita, had ordered his men to retreat

inland from the gulf, hoping to start a protracted action intended to save Japan itself from invasion.

Gen. Yamashita surrendered to U.S. forces eight months later after atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. He was later hanged as a war criminal.

Many of the 100,000 residents of Lingayen feel the allied bombardment of their town before the landing was unnecessary, saying it destroyed many homes and killed an undetermined number of civilians.

Venancio Nava, a long-time Lingayen resident and regional director of the Department of Education, said American bombing began a month before the landing terrified the population.

"The bombings were unnecessary because the Japanese were gone," he said.

The Lingayen invasion also marked the last major strike by kamikaze pilots in the Philippine campaign.

As the allied armada approached Lingayen, the Japanese military ordered dozens of young pilots to launch daylight attacks against the invaders.

Many of the suicide planes, named after a typhoon that saved Japan from Mongol invasion in the 13th century, were destroyed before they could do any damage.

But some got through the fleet's defences, damaging 11 vessels, sinking one minesweeper and killing hundreds of allied sailors.

Former Filipino guerrilla Abundio Gonzalo, 73, cried as he watched the re-enactment.

"I just couldn't hold back my tears. I remember all the hardships we went through," said Mr. Gonzalo, who was among 3,000 Filipino and 35 American veterans who attended the ceremony.

But U.S. Congressional Medal of Honour recipient Donald Rudolph, who knocked out a Japanese position and killed its 16 occupants almost singlehandedly a few days after landing in Lingayen, shed no tears.

"Why should there be tears?" said Mr. Rudolph of Bovey, Minnesota. "It's all over."

Hundreds evacuate as California rivers break banks

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — Hundreds of people evacuated their homes in two northern California counties Sunday as torrential rains caused severe flooding.

Local news reports said the flooding in Sonoma and Napa counties, which lie just to the north of San Francisco, was the worst in the area in almost 10 years.

Two storms in two days dropped up to five inches (12 cm) of rain in parts of Northern California, causing the Napa and Russian Rivers to break their banks, flooding some houses and threatening many more.

The waters flooded some vineyards in the wine-producing region and forced the closure of many roads, while some residents built walls of sandbags to keep out the floodwaters.

One of the worst-hit towns was Guerneville in Sonoma County, where the Russian River had already risen to 37 feet (11 metres) — five feet (1.5 metres) above flood level — by Sunday evening and was expected to peak at 48 feet (14 metres) at midnight.

The rain continued to pour Sunday evening, swelling the rivers even more. More rain was forecast for Monday.

A local state of emergency was declared in Napa County where the rising Napa River threatened to flood houses in the towns of Calistoga, Yountville and St. Helena, a county information officer said.

About 500 people voluntarily evacuated their homes in the three towns, he said. Most of the evacuees stayed with friends or relatives.

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About 500 people voluntarily evacuated their homes in the three towns, he said. Most of the evacuees stayed with friends or relatives.

Murayama's U.S. visit overshadowed by history

TOKYO (AFP) — Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama leaves on his first visit to Washington Tuesday as the two countries grapple with sensitive preparations for the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II.

One of the thorniest issues related to the Pacific War appears to be a planned international ceremony to be hosted by the United States in Hawaii on Sept. 2, the date of Japan's official surrender in 1945.

Japan reportedly wants to avoid being invited to the ceremony because of "national sentiments" and Mr. Murayama, who has already met President Bill Clinton twice since coming to power in June, is expected to raise the issue in Washington.

In sharp contrast to the visit by Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa in February last year, Mr. Murayama's meeting with Mr. Clinton in Washington Wednesday is unlikely to be dominated by bilateral trade friction.

Japan and the United States have already announced plans to revive long-stalled talks on automotive trade later this month, almost a year after the negotiations first collapsed at the time of the Hosokawa visit.

The two sides expect to reach an agreement on Japanese government purchases of foreign computers some time this week and are also said to be close to an accord on improving foreign access to Japan's financial services market.

With the diminished focus on trade and amid looming

anniversaries marking the end of the war, Japan is now "looking to reaffirm its friendship and strengthen the bilateral relationship," a Foreign Ministry official said.

The official said the issue of the Hawaii ceremony had been "under consideration with the U.S. government" for some time, although any comment on the matter would be "premature" before a formal decision is made.

Mr. Clinton's administration has already indicated its willingness to accommodate Japanese war sensitivities, especially over the estimated 300,000 people killed in the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945.

Following Japanese objections last month, the administration intervened to scrap plans for a World War II memorial postage stamp bearing a mushroom cloud and the phrase "Atomic bombs hasten war's end."

While officials say the agenda for Wednesday's summit is up to the two leaders themselves, the Japanese Foreign Ministry is particularly keen to promote bilateral cooperation in various global issues.

Under a two-year agreement reached in mid-1993, the two countries established a "common agenda" for global cooperation in areas ranging from environment and technology to population and AIDS.

Japan's chairmanship this year of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum is also likely to be discussed ahead of the APEC summit in Osaka in November.

American officials have so far expressed confidence in Japan's ability to implement the recommendations made by APEC leaders at November's summit in Indonesia including plans to achieve free trade in the region by 2020.

Mr. Murayama, who will be in Washington from Tuesday to Thursday, is also expected to discuss North Korea with Mr. Clinton in addition to a range of security issues.

Japan and the United States are reportedly considering plans to redefine their military relationship which is currently spelled out in a bilateral security treaty dating back 35 years.

Mr. Murayama, who leads a coalition of conservative and Socialist forces, will outline Japan's proposals this week, the Yomiuri Shinbun reported Sunday, adding that a joint declaration was likely to be issued in Osaka in November.

Mr. Murayama goes to Washington Tuesday leaving his Socialist Party on the brink of break up.

Mr. Murayama spent the weekend trying to reach an accommodation with dissidents within the ranks but failed.

He was scheduled to preside over an emergency meeting of party leaders late Monday in an attempt to limit the damage before he flies off.

Coalition government spokesman Kozo Igarashi, a member of the Social Democratic Party (SDP), was trying Monday to convince a

doubtful public that the party was not in any imminent danger.

He said he did not think "the weekend failure will lead to the break up of the party."

But his views were not shared by most Japanese political commentators who said the countdown for the SDP's disintegration had begun and that a new group led by the party's former President Sadao Yamahana would be created before Jan. 20.

What is not yet clear is how many deputies in the two chambers of the Japanese parliament will follow him. It only needs 37 of the Socialists' 72 members in the lower house to quit the tripartite coalition for its majority to collapse.

Mr. Murayama would then be forced to seek other political support, call a snap general election, or resign.

The embryonic party is currently only a small parliamentary group known as the New Democratic League. But on Monday about 30 MPs took part in a League general assembly which was followed by a smaller preparatory committee meeting.

Most political observers consider the defection of 20 or more MPs from the two chambers would deal a severe, possibly fatal, blow to the power base of Mr. Murayama, the SDP chairman.

Fewer defections, however, would possibly allow Mr. Murayama to maintain his government and carry on until local and legislative elections which are due in April and July.

Mighty mouse halts airliner

STOCKHOLM (AFP) — An elusive and stubborn mouse made fools of Swedish airline SAS, forcing it to cancel a New York-bound flight after the tiny stowaway was discovered on board, Dagmar Nyheter said Sunday. The mouse was rumoured Saturday as it roamed freely around the forward half of the plane during a trans-Atlantic flight to Sweden. When relieved passengers landed in Stockholm, the plane was combed from cockpit to tail, but turned up no sign of the crafty creature. Security regulations bar furry little creatures, and SAS were forced to cancel the return leg to New York. U.S.-bound passengers had to fly via Oslo instead. The mouse flew on alone to Copenhagen.

Swedish album, Lion King soundtrack top 1994 U.S. hits

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AFP) — Swedish rock group Ace of Base's The Sign and the multi-artist soundtrack for Disney's The Lion King tied in first place on the 1994 best-selling album list, trade group said. Each album sold seven million copies, said the Recording Industry Association of America. The association reports monthly sales in one-million increments. Rounding out the top five album slots were "It's by Boyz II Men, August and Everything After by Counting Crows and Vs. by Pearl Jam — each sold five million — and Doggy Style by Snoop Doggy Dogg, four million.

Last year's album heavyweights are dwarfed by the all-time mega-giant, Michael Jackson's 1983 Thriller, which has sold 24 million copies in the United States and millions more worldwide. In the singles category, Tag Team's Whoomp! (There It Is) led the list and joined two other singles with a record four million copies sold, We Are The World by USA for Africa and I Will Always Love You by Whitney Houston.

China's 'robber king' gets life for crime school

SHANGHAI (R) — A Chinese peasant who turned young boys into thieves and rapists in a school for crime has been sentenced to life in prison, the Wen Hui daily reported Monday. Hu Shicai styled himself the "robber king" of Henan province in central China after being let out of jail, where he served 15 years for robbery and sex offenses. The 68-year-old rogue charged fees to school dropouts to teach them his crime skills. His graduates netted 80,000 yuan (\$9,500) and raped eight women and three girls, the newspaper said. Mr. Hu said he got the idea for his school from his neighbours, who ran classes teaching embroidery.

Beijing inhabited 3,040 years ago

BEIJING (R) — The site of the current Chinese capital, Beijing, was inhabited as early as 3,040 years ago, the Xinhua News Agency said. It said the discovery followed archaeological studies of sites and finds dating back to the Shang and Zhou dynasties (14th to 4th centuries BC) in Beijing's suburban Fangshan district.

Groups of tombs, cultural sites and bronzeware with inscriptions were found in the district's Lulihe area, it said. Xinhua quoted archaeologists as saying Beijing was first established in 1,045 BC, when the place was known as Ji, according to inscriptions on bronzeware unearthed around the capital.

Hello officer, I've stolen the baby

SAINT-ETIENNE, France (AFP) — A pair of soft-hearted car thieves have handed a car they had just stolen to the police after noticing a baby on the back seat, police in this central French town said Sunday.

After stealing the unlocked car late Saturday, they roared off before noticing the baby and pulling up several hundred metres up the road, next to a telephone box, calling the local police and anonymously telling them where to find the vehicle. Car and infant were recovered safe and sound by a police patrol within minutes, and the parents, traced by computer records, were reunited with their charge barely an hour later.

Rwanda's army says its troops killed 12

BUSANZE CAMP, Rwanda (R) — Rwanda's government army said Monday its troops attacked a camp in the south-west where 12 homeless people were slaughtered and more than 30 were wounded.

A spokesman for the Rwanda Patriotic Army (RPA) said two officers were arrested in connection with Saturday's attack on Busanze Camp near the border with Burundi in which he said 11 people were killed.

Aid workers who visited Busanze Sunday found a trench filled with 12 corpses, five of them children, with limbs broken by machete blows and executed with a bullet to the back of the head.

Thirty-six wounded were taken from the camp to the medical Emergency Relief International health centre at Runyombyi. U.N. officials confirmed that 12 people were killed in the attack.

Some aid workers Sunday said they suspected gunmen loyal to the ousted Hutu regime in Rwanda were behind the brutal raid.

But RPA spokesman Major Wilson Rutysire told Reuters a grenade was thrown at an unauthorised RPA foot patrol outside the camp. The patrol opened fire and killed 11 people.

"The second lieutenant leading the patrol has been arrested," Maj. Rutysire said. "And the acting area commander has also been arrested as the patrol was not



Australian U.N. soldiers give first aid to one of the 36 Hutu refugees that were injured during an attack by Rwandan troops in a southwest Rwanda refugee camp (AFP photo)

officially deployed.

"Other means rather than shooting should have been used to search the camp after the grenade was thrown," he added.

A woman survivor treated at Runyombyi with blood dripping from a double puncture wound to her elbow, told Reuters:

"They surrounded the camp, came in with machetes and hoses to beat us and cut down the shelter, then started shooting."

In the medical centres a young girl lay on a mattress, her knees shattered by one of the bullets that turned the camp in a former French safe zone into a graveyard. She said her parents were killed.

The homeless fled Busanze after the attack. Crude huts were cut down and burned by Monday and their occupants had taken refuge in neigh-

bouring camps or the region's rolling hills.

Six months ago 6,000 Hutus sought sanctuary in Busanze, one of many camps in the southwest, as the Tutsi-dominated Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) advanced across the country at the height of civil war.

The homeless were protected first by French troops and then by U.N. observers against the threat of revenge killings after the massacre of up to one million Tutsis and Hutu moderates by militia-men loyal to the former government from April to July.

Following the RPF victory, the new government said camps for the displaced had to be closed and people would return to their homes.

The southwest has been plagued by cross-border raids over the past two weeks and aid workers say tensions was

running high.

"RPA soldiers are shooting at anything that moves on Lake Kivu," an aid worker said Monday, adding there was a lot of tension in the south especially at camps for displaced people.

He said attacks by militia-men loyal to the ousted Rwandan regime and RPA counter-attacks were a recipe for disaster.

Busanze was hit the same day as leaders of Rwanda, Burundi, Zaire, Uganda, Kenya, Zambia and Tanzania met in the Kenyan capital Nairobi in a bid to end the crisis caused by two million Rwandan refugees.

They adopted a strategy to combat insecurity after Rwanda's genocide and encourage refugees home but diplomats said finding the needed political will and money was a problem.

Bosnia truce talks bog down

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — United Nations efforts to consolidate Bosnia's ceasefire ran into difficulties Monday as Serbs and the government side failed to agree on the status of a demilitarised zone near Sarajevo.

A meeting of rival military commanders scheduled for Wednesday at Sarajevo Airport to discuss implementation of the four-month "cessation of hostilities" appeared in question, while regional negotiations also came under strain.

U.N. spokesman Major Herve Goumelon told reporters that a meeting Sunday between the commander of U.N. troops in Bosnia, Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Rose, and Bosnian Serb Army chief General Ratko Mladic "was not overly positive."

The Bosnian Serbs had refused to reopen supply roads into Sarajevo, as called for in the ceasefire signed on Dec. 31, unless troops of the Muslim-led Bosnian government army vacated the demilitarised zone on Mount Igman, southwest of Sarajevo.

Serbs were also blocking a U.N. request to evacuate wounded from the Muslim enclave in eastern Bosnia, Maj. Goumelon said.

Adding new conditions, Gen. Mladic also demanded that government troops must quit ground they seized on the fringes of the zone.

The U.N. special envoy to former Yugoslavia, Yasushi Akashi, said the world body wanted full and immediate compliance with the cessation of hostilities agreement.

If Gen. Mladic was adding new conditions then the Un-

ited Nations would take the matter up with Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic.

"The agreements have been accepted in good faith by the parties, and so now full and prompt compliance is the only issue," Mr. Akashi told reporters in Zagreb.

Maj. Goumelon described Gen. Mladic's new demand as a "serious matter" but made clear the United Nations wanted to get the Bosnian army to quit the demilitarised zone.

"We want to get the withdrawal first and then General Rose will see what to do," Maj. Goumelon told Reuters.

United Nations troops planned another ground inspection of the Mount Igman demilitarised zone later Monday to check whether Bosnian government soldiers had quit the last lookout point they were known to be occupying.

The patrol would be undertaken if a Bosnian army liaison officer showed up to act as a guide through the steep wooded slopes, now thickly covered in snow.

A helicopter reconnaissance was also possible but that depended on the mountain fog lifting.

Despite disagreements on implementing the truce agreement, the United Nations said it was still generally holding in most of Bosnia, which was described as "quiet and calm" over the past 24 hours.

The only exception was the Bihac enclave in the northwest, where rebel Serb and Muslim elements have not signed the truce. The Bihac

area saw light shelling during the reporting period.

In the only reported incident in Sarajevo, a grenade exploded near a French U.N. armoured vehicle, badly shaking the crew but causing no serious injuries.

The four-month ceasefire, brokered with the help of former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, was intended to pave the way for peace talks on a settlement of the 33-month-old war in Bosnia.

Envoys from the five-nation "contact group", who met in Bonn last week and will reconvene in Paris Tuesday, are seeking to inject fresh impetus into a peace plan for Bosnia.

But comments by a senior U.S. official, who met Bosnian government leaders in Sarajevo Sunday and held further talks Monday, suggested the plan may not be the same as the one the contact group outlined last year.

Richard Holbrooke, assistant U.S. secretary of state for East European affairs, said the plan was now a basis for more talks rather than the "take-it-or-leave-it" deal it once was.

Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic Monday bluntly and publicly disagreed with Mr. Holbrooke on the international peace plan for Bosnia, insisting it was more than simply a basis for talks.

Mr. Holbrooke, following a meeting here with Mr. Silajdzic and President Alija Izetbegovic, twice referred to the plan proposed by a five-nation contact group as "a starting point for negotiations" between the Bosnian government and rebel Serbs. "Let me phrase it exactly,"

Mr. Holbrooke told reporters. "The contact group goal is to gain acceptance of the contact group plan as the starting point for negotiations. That is our position. There's no need for us to go any further."

That provoked the following response from Mr. Silajdzic: "That's your position, Mr. Holbrooke. But for Bosnia-Herzegovina it was take-it-or-leave-it."

"It's a bit, if I may say, unfair. We were asked to accept it with no conditions. Now it seems that the position has shifted when it comes to the aggressor representatives."

"We accepted under terms of take-it-or-leave-it. We took it, they left it."

Mr. Izetbegovic earlier had repeated his government's insistence that before peace talks can resume, "the Serb side must accept the plan."

Unveiled last July by Britain, France, Germany, Russia and the United States, the proposal would allot the Bosnian Serbs 49 per cent of Bosnia, down from the 70 per cent they have seized in 33-month of war.

Serb authorities rejected the plan and the proposed land distribution, while the Muslim-led government, which would share 51 per cent of the territory with Bosnian Croats, accepted it.

The broad outlines of the deal had initially been presented as non-negotiable. But at a meeting in Brussels in December the contact group — to the great annoyance of the Bosnian government — decided that the land division "can be adjusted by mutual agreement between the parties."

Bangladesh politicians hint at move to end crisis

DHAKA (R) — Bangladeshi opposition leaders said Monday they were planning a 72-hour general strike before Ramadan, the Muslim month of fasting at the beginning of February, but would not rule out chances of a compromise with the government over demands for early elections.

They said the marathon strike could start any day after Jan. 19, when opposition parties called for a country-wide transport blockade to force Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to accept their demands.

"It could either be Jan.

21-23 or Jan. 25 onwards," said one leader, adding that the "time is very sensitive."

He and his colleagues acknowledged to reporters that there had been a fresh move to try to find a compromise between Mrs. Khaleda Zia and her main rival, Sheikh Hasina of the Awami League.

They declined to give details or identify the mediators. The government also declined to comment.

"We don't want this last move to be periled by over-publicity, misinterpretation of statements or just because

of too much guessing," said one leader of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP).

Opposition legislators, who have boycotted parliament since last February, formally quit on Dec. 28, adding to pressure on the BNP to accept demands for elections under a neutral caretaker government.

Mrs. Hasina repeated her demand Sunday, saying that she wanted Mrs. Khaleda Zia to step down immediately to allow President Abdur Rahman Biswas to dissolve the 330-member parliament

and call early elections.

Opposition leaders earlier rejected Mrs. Zia's offer to resign one month ahead of elections scheduled for 1996.

The latest move for a settlement stemmed from fears on both sides that one would try to blame the other if uncertainties over elections led to violence or provoked the armed forces to the over, political analysts said.

None of Bangladesh's past parliaments have served their full terms because of squabbling among politicians or their failure to ensure peace and stability, they said.

Pope calls Bosnian war Europe's shipwreck

VATICAN CITY (R) — Pope John Paul told diplomats Monday in his yearly "state-of-the-world" address that the failure to stop the war in Bosnia marked "the shipwreck of the whole of Europe."

The Pope told envoys from more than 150 countries that although some progress had been made towards peace in 1994 "there are still rising today from this world too many cries of despair and pain."

He said Russia's attempt to crush Chechnya's independence bid showed that negotiations were the only way to guarantee ethnic peace and called for national dialogue in Algeria.

In apparent references to Cuba and Iraq, the Pope said trade embargoes imposed on countries often inflicted disproportionate and humiliating hardships on common people. Embargoes should be used with great discernment and subjected to ethical criteria.

The 74-year-old Pontiff reserved the most heartfelt part of his speech to an appeal for peace in Bosnia. Security concerns forced him to cancel a visit last year to its capital, Sarajevo.

Very near to us, in the winter cold, the peoples of Bosnia-Herzegovina continue to suffer in their own flesh the consequences of a pitiless war," the Pope said in his French-language address in the Vatican's frescoed Regia Hall.

"Faced with this tragedy, which in a way seems like the shipwreck of the whole of Europe, neither ordinary citizens nor political leaders can remain indifferent or neutral," he said.

"There are aggressors and there are victims. International law and humanitarian law are being violated. All of this demands a firm and united reaction on the part of the community of nations."

The Pope, who has in the past suggested that international military intervention might become necessary to stop Serb aggression, said solutions to the war in Bosnia "cannot be improvised at the whim of conquests by either side" and law could never sanction "results obtained by force alone."

He said he hoped the latest ceasefire in Bosnia could lead to a "reconciliation of peoples."

Although he called for dialogue to resolve ethnic divisions, the Pope made no criticism of the "swinging" of the pendulum in Bosnia.

India's ruling Congress Party hints at action against Rao rival

NEW DELHI (AFP) — India's ruling Congress (I) Party hinted Monday that it was planning to strike back at Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's main rival for the first time since he quit the cabinet 16 days ago.

A meeting of the Congress Central Election Committee (CEC), described as a "letter written by Arjun Singh" to Mr. Rao concerning candidates for the upcoming legislative elections in five Indian states as "mischievous."

The CEC, which met here late Sunday, "has taken strong exception to such deliberate acts to weaken the organisation at this crucial juncture by a member of the (leadership)," Congress General Secretary Janardhan poojary said.

Arjun Singh, 64, asked Mr. Rao in a letter Saturday not to ignore party members "who remained committed to the leadership of the late Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi" while picking candidates for the state elections.

The move by Arjun Singh, who released the letter to the press, was widely seen as another attempt to cut Rao's support base in the Congress by indicating that the prime minister would not do justice to party loyalists.

Mr. Poojary told reporters here that Arjun Singh's letter

was "politically motivated."

"His intention is clear," he said. "To say all these things at a time when the elections are due... is nothing but mischievous."

It was the strongest attack on Arjun Singh by the ruling party since he resigned from the cabinet on Dec. 24 after accusing Mr. Rao of plunging the 109-year-old Congress into a state of inertia.

Arjun Singh has since slowly escalated a carefully worded anti-Rao campaign in a move seen as an attempt to project himself as an alternative leader of the Congress. He has gained support from several disgruntled party leaders.

Arjun Singh declined to comment on Mr. Poojary's statement. Asked if he feared he would be ousted from the party, he shot back: "That is not my concern."

Mr. Poojary's threat to hit back at Arjun Singh came a day after the party's unit in Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous state, called for Mr. Rao's ouster as Congress president.

More than 250 senior members of the Congress demanded in the state capital Lucknow that Mr. Rao step down as party chief in favour of Sonia Gandhi, the Italian-born widow of assassinated former Premier Rajiv Gandhi.

Newspapers reported Monday that the rebels also opposed the appointment of Mr. Rao's candidate, Jitendra Prasad, as chief of the Uttar Pradesh Congress after the resignation of Narain Dutt Tiwari, an Arjun Singh ally.

"You have to choose between the Congress Party and Mr. Rao," Akbaruddin, a senior leader of the Congress in Uttar Pradesh, was quoted as telling the Lucknow gathering, which was attended by some 250 people.

The rebels urged Mr. Gandhi to enter politics and "save the Congress" by abandoning her self-imposed isolation and jealously guarded privacy.

The movement against Rao has been gathering momentum since the humiliating defeat of the 109-year-old Congress in state elections in November and December and a series of corruption scandals.

Three ministers were sacked last month in connection with a \$1.3-billion bank and securities fraud and a sugar scandal. Another quit in a huff.

Mr. Tiwari quit after Mr. Rao ignored his repeated demands to withdraw the party's support to a Socialist-led coalition government which rules the state.

Dehaene defuses linguistic mine, saves government

BRUSSELS (AFP) — Prime Minister Jean-Luc Dehaene displayed his legendary negotiating skills early Monday by defusing a linguistic crisis over the language abilities of a village mayor and saving his coalition government.

The crisis came with the election last October of Jose Happort, a member of the Socialist Party, as mayor of Les Fourons, a village of 4,000 people that is 55 per cent French-speaking but located

in the Flemish-speaking province of Limbourg.

The problem was that Mr. Happort does not speak good Flemish, a handicap which legally prevents him from becoming mayor, although Mr. Happort did not accept this limitation.

In an all-night marathon meeting of the four partners of the governing coalition chaired by Mr. Dehaene, a Flemish Christian-Socialist known as "The Defuser,"

Mr. Happort agreed to allow another Socialist, Jose Smeets, who is perfectly bilingual, become mayor.

In exchange for this concession, the government agreed to make translators available to residents of Les Fourons when they deal with Flemish administrators, a facility also accorded to Flemish-speaking residents of Communes, who are located in a Wallon, or French-speaking, province.

Elio Di Rupo, the French-speaking deputy prime minister, said a mediator would be appointed to cool tensions between the people of Les Fourons and the administrative authorities of Limbourg province.

The agreement satisfied the French-speaking members of the governing coalition, who had threatened a vote of no-confidence on Tuesday over the Fourons issue.

Chirac seeks to boost campaign with book

PARIS (R) — Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac sought to revive his flagging presidential campaign Monday with a new book depicting France in a profound crisis and calling for vigorous political, economic and social change.

Mr. Chirac, 62, trailing far behind conservative Prime Minister Edouard Balladur in polls ahead of the April-May election, said the French people had lost confidence in their leaders and in their future.

He painted a picture of a weakened nation whose politicians had abdicated responsibility and "let technocrats monopolise the control levers of the state."

The newspaper Le Monde published excerpts of the book, France For All, to go on sale Tuesday, and said Mr. Chirac planned to challenge Mr. Balladur to a television debate to highlight policy differences between the two fellow Gaullists.

Political sources said it was highly unlikely that the prime minister, expected to announce his candidacy next week, would do Mr. Chirac the favour of agreeing to such a debate.

The Paris mayor's diagnosis of a politically paralysed, economically enfeebled and socially divided country was in sharp contrast with Mr. Balladur's reassuring message that France is on the road to recovery and growth.

Mr. Balladur's supporters

capable of uniting France's centre-right majority.

Opinion polls in the last week have shown the prime minister would beat all comers, while Mr. Chirac would finish a poor third behind a Socialist contender who will be chosen on Feb. 5.

Even within the Gaullist RPR party which Chirac founded in 1976, a majority of cabinet ministers and many parliamentarians are ready to back Mr. Balladur as the winner.

But Mr. Chirac, whose two previous presidential bids in 1981 and 1988 failed, shows no sign of giving up.

In an apparent pitch for left-wing voters orphaned by the withdrawal of European Commission President Jacques Delors from the race, he said: "The search for social cohesion is in my eyes the absolute priority."

"It is not acceptable that five million of our fellow citizens deprived of a job, sometimes of a home and thus of social life, are reduced to handouts or begging, with no other prospect than physical and mental decay."

At another point, he warned that failure to listen to the distress of workers and the poor put France "at the mercy of a social explosion which could occur very soon."

It was a second book in a series of books by Chirac.

U.K. labour launches new year attack

LONDON (R) — Britain's opposition Labour Party launched a tough new attack on Prime Minister John Major Monday and threatened a repeat of the tactics that led to an embarrassing government defeat in parliament last month.

With its party on a campaign footing even though elections could be two years away, Labour leader Tony Blair said: "The government can expect no let up on our opposition to them and in our continuing to expose their weaknesses and their failings."

He told a news conference

that Labour would focus its new year campaign on opposing the government's controversial plans to privatise the railways and to end mortgage help for homeowners who lose their jobs.

It would also force action on huge pay rises for managers at utility companies privatised by the conservatives.

Last month Labour imposed a humiliating parliamentary defeat on Mr. Major's demoralised government, forcing it to scrap a planned doubling of tax on home heating bills.

Coming on top of a

crushing defeat in a parliamentary by-election last month and polls showing the government is the most unpopular in British polling history, as well as a chronic rift in his party over Europe, Mr. Major faces an uphill battle.

In a television interview Sunday, Mr. Major sought to bridge the rift in his ruling party and target rebels back into the fold, saying he would veto any significant changes proposed at next year's European Union inter-governmental conference.

Conservative Party Chairman Jeremy Hanley immediately dismissed Mr. Blair's attack.

U.K. satirist Peter Cook dies at 57

LONDON (R) — Peter Cook, hailed as founding father of contemporary British satire and famed for his comedy partnership with actor Dudley Moore, died suddenly Monday of a gastrointestinal haemorrhage at the age of 57.

Cook, who rocketed to fame as a student wit and a spearheaded Britain's satire boom in the "swinging sixties," influenced a whole generation of comedians but capitalised on his early success.

"I think I saw out of ambivalence at 24," the dishevelled edman once confessed at Dudley Moore departed

for a career of international fame as an unlikely Hollywood heartthrob.

But Cook left behind him one enduring monument to his acidic humour — he founded the satirical magazine private eye whose editor Ian Hislop said Monday: "He was an extraordinary proprietor. He never compromised, he never complained."

"It was said he never really lived up to his potential because he seemed to enjoy life more than work," BBC producer Harry Thompson said of the comedian so often seen with a drink in one hand and a cigarette in the other.

Fellow satirist Ned Sherrin said of Cook: "Obviously he was the first, he was the governor."

BBC Television chief Alan Yentob said: "Peter Cook was an absolute out-of-the-ordinary comic, a unique combination of intelligence and television writers and performers is immeasurable."

Cook broke new ground in the sixties in the student revue Beyond The Fringe that transferred to London's West End and New York's Broadway. His most notorious cameo was portraying Prime Minister Harold MacMillan as a rambling buffoon.

Jordan Times

Independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.
Established 1972
الصحف الاردنية المستقلة العربية السياسية المنشورة بالانجليزية من المؤسسة الاردنية للصحافة
مؤسسة ١٩٧٢

Chairman of the Board of Directors:

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Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

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Facsimile: 696183

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

Tabloids vs quality press

THERE IS no denial that the tabloid press does exaggerate in its coverage of news and also in its views. This has led to complaints from both the country's political leadership and community leaders as well as from inside the ranks of journalists themselves.

Envisaged solutions for the "dangerous phenomenon," as the problem with tabloids is often called, range from calls to close those newspapers to contentions that the free market would take care of it, basically by enabling people to be the ultimate arbiters in judging what is good or bad for them.

Before delving into answers, though, some questions have to be asked. What is it that makes tabloids survive and prosper, not only in Jordan but also in other countries? Is it because they entertain? Or is it because they provide speculative answers, when information is either scarce or unavailable? Or, alternatively, because they tend to be radical in their views catering in the process for the fringe groups in society, or those who do not feed on the established media? Or is it because they venture into areas that are not normally trodden upon by the mainstream press? Finally, the question has to be asked whether politicians do not themselves resort to the tabloids, especially when they are denied access to quality newspapers, to either publish their views or their news.

It is not far-fetched that the most two important factors contributing to the increasing popularity of the tabloids, which are read by about 10 per cent of all newspaper readers are, first, the paucity of news about what the government is or is not doing in Jordan, to safeguard the interests of citizens, which is an inherent weakness accompanying our understanding of the information field per se; and, second, the slowness in developing our mainstream press. Tabloid journalists, when criticised over their one-sided reporting or rumouring, often complain that they often fail in their attempts to verify stories from mainly official sources. And, as far as our experience shows, this is not totally untrue. We must all admit that there is a problem with the shallow, rigid reporting by the established dailies of stories which involve political events, corruption, crime, and other sensitive issues. This no doubt contributes to the popularity of the tabloids, which thrive on sensation and touching people's sensitivities. The press and publication law, with so many elastic and vague articles, also contributes to the problem, as we all know.

With this in mind, it becomes imperative for the new government of Sharif Zeid and for the media society as a whole to reexamine the legislation, the practices and even the news-making process in the country as a whole, as His Majesty the King indeed urged the prime minister in the letter of designation.

A good start would be to form a consultative body made of representatives of the press, the government and neutral observers who are otherwise called wise men. Such a body could review all the pertinent legislation as well as practices that impede progress of the profession and its product. One overriding factor must be realised at the outset, though. Openness and the free circulation of information of all aspects of societal activities is a prerequisite not only for constructive free speech but also for the healthy democracy that we all aspire to.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

GREAT HOPES are pinned on the new government of Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker at a time when the country is facing hardships and confronting new challenges in the peace era, said Al Rai daily Monday. The past two governments of Sharif Zeid did not cause disappointments to any one and handled critical issues with integrity and honesty, and for this reason Jordanian citizens are counting on the new team serving with the prime minister to listen to public complaints, deal with grievances and take drastic measures to put matters right, said the daily. Wishing the government success in its new mission, the paper said that the many ills troubling the country and the requirement of peace with Israel are bound to put Sharif Zeid and his colleagues to the real test. The paper said that the King's letter of designation to the prime minister contains the elements of success, if followed in the true sense and in word and in spirit.

SALEH QALLAB, a writer in Al Dastour accused Russian President Boris Yeltsin of trying to improve his shaky position at home by trying to annihilate the Chechen nation and destroying their capital. The writer said that the steadfastness of the Chechens before the Russian onslaught serves as a good example for the other oppressed nations of the world and their heroic resistance is a source of pride to all freedom fighters. The destruction of Chechnya can by no means help the Russian leader to annex the devastated nation to his empire and history abounds with examples that the annexation of nations by force of arms can never last, continued the writer.

The View from Fourth Circle

The new government and the new millennium

By Rami G. Khouri

THE DESIGNATION of Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker as the prime minister of Jordan, charged with translating into fact His Majesty King Hussein's vision of the need for national reorganisation to cope with the challenges ahead, is an opportunity for Jordan and Jordanians to experience very much more than a routine change of government. Let us be very clear about the stakes and the consequences of our current national development: In the next several years, perhaps decade, our policy decisions will determine whether Jordan will stagnate as another small, dependent Third World country that could not rip itself away from the comforting, child-like attraction of ancient patriarchal, imperial and dependent orders, or whether it advances as a model of balanced, human-based development that endures and flourishes because it values the dignity and rights of the individual.

Sharif Zeid appears destined to play a recurrently pivotal role in managing the modern political evolution of Jordan. He performed admirably when he led the government immediately after the April 1989 demonstrations in the south, bringing about an orderly transition to the early stages of liberalisation and democratisation. In retrospect, that was not an easy task, given the anger, fear and resentment that permeated a society in which almost every family suffered a declining living standard due to the accumulated debt and autocratic traditions of previous governments.

The situation today is different again. Jordan's current challenge is not mainly about domestic political culture — for what you see is what you get, an enlightened constitutional monarchy in which some light, modern principles of participatory, accountable and republican governance coexist comfortably with heavier, older patterns of tribal-based decision-making. The challenge for Jordan is to interact intelligently with the rest of the world, and more specifically with that small portion of the world's population that is moving ahead to forge a new global society based on twin access to information and services.

The world as a whole as well as individual countries — whether the United States or Jordan — are cleaving into two distinct groups: a small group of people and states that are dynamic, creative, exciting and therefore secure, and a much larger group of people and cultures that are mired in

mediocrity, stagnation and, ultimately, desperate poverty and conflict. The basic challenge is whether we will join the ranks of the Singapore and Switzerland of this world, or the Somalias and Bosnias.

Individuals have a major role to play in determining the answers to such questions, and I suspect that the manner in which Sharif Zeid shepherds the executive branch of government in the coming few years may set the tone for the direction of Jordanian national development for many years and decades to come. His most pressing task is to redefine the nature and power of the government, and to strike a new balance among the power of the state and the dynamism of the people.

This requires fundamental changes in the self-perception and behaviour of the state — not, you would think, a task suited for an individual whose entire life has been devoted to public service in the institutions of the state; yet, Sharif Zeid may be ideally suited to the task, as he showed post-April 1989. His background as a soldier probably gives him a vital capacity that other recent prime ministers have lacked — an appreciation for the limits of what armies and military security systems can and cannot do. His Sherifian lineage — the Arab equivalent of princely nobility — clearly provides him with the vital foundation of credibility, confidence and trust required to prod the country into long-term historical change.

The process of redefining and reorganising government is not a technical issue about projects and personalities. It is a far deeper conceptual struggle between two visions of the future: One vision sees the state as the source of all power, money and truth, and the other sees the individual and the people as the source of our strength and the vectors of our durability and development. The future that Jordan deserves would allow its people to express their full dynamism and creativity and thereby to meet their important challenges of economy, environment and diplomacy, in an atmosphere in which the individual, rather than the state, comprises the primary vortex of national development.

Sharif Zeid's government faces the monumental task of asserting this fact in a manner that is faithful to our social traditions and cultural values, but that simultaneously allows Jordan to move into the future alongside the modern, productive societies of our world. Information

and education are the two key areas where freedom, quality and vitality must be enhanced quickly and substantively, if we are to avoid a future in which we struggle to feed ourselves by selling ourselves to foreign tourists and investors, effectively turning ourselves into a combination zoo and parking lot for the world's powers — who became powers in the first place because they encouraged their people to be inquisitive, creative and bold.

The states that will flourish and grow strong in the future will be those states that can tap the full power of their people's intelligence and creativity. Modern Arab political culture and history have traditionally thwarted rather than promoted intelligence and creativity, while instead favouring compliance, obedience and passive allegiance as the preferred traits of their people. This era has brought the Arab World only greater tension and conflict, and, in most cases, including Jordan, heavy dependence on foreign funds and food.

Sharif Zeid faces the exciting but delicate task of translating King Hussein's vision of national reorganisation into a practical set of policies that moves Jordan from the past into the future, from old ways to new ones. The future is already clear for those who have the will to discern it; it is a future that promises progress, well-being and fun for those who dare to be free, exploratory, innovative and contemplative, and that promises suffering, war and want for those who are determined to suppress the energy of individual creativity and to beat down those who would ask questions.

In 1989, Sharif Zeid successfully helped Jordan to move from the first to the second halves of the 20th century. Now, he is asked to move us from the second towards the third millennium. The conceptual and qualitative leap required of Jordan is enormous, but within our grasp and capabilities, if we value freedom and human dignity above other, less noble forces of servitude, violence and exploitation that have tempted us in recent years. Sharif Zeid — with his combination of princely and princely nobility and armed forces background — may appear to some as an unlikely candidate to lead the government through this historic stage of national transformation. I suspect he will rise to the challenge, though, because he has already done it once before during this millennium.

Testing to destruction

By John Hooper

FOR THE past eight months Italy has been governed by a businessman. Silvio Berlusconi's only previous experience of politics was as leader of a movement he founded three months before he became prime minister. Now that he has offered his resignation, serious consideration is being given to replacing him with a lawyer, Antonio Di Pietro, who has no political experience whatsoever.

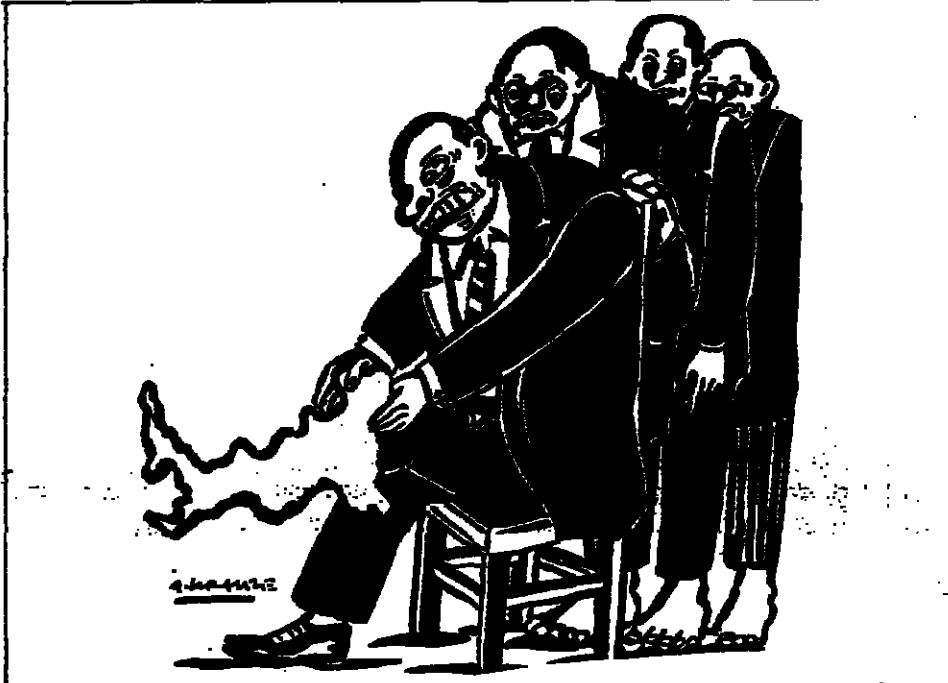
In different ways both men owe their public notoriety, and therefore their political acceptability, to television: Mr. Berlusconi's three television channels control almost half of what Italians watch in their homes; as an anti-graft prosecutor Di Pietro became a national celebrity when he grilled the once-mighty in televised court proceedings.

What has made Mr. Berlusconi replaceable is the detection of a key coalition partner, the Northern League. The League is enthusiastically pro-capitalist, but otherwise impossible to fit into the conventional, left-to-right spectrum. Irene Pivetti, speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, is a member of the League. She is so far to the right that she wears the symbol of an 18th century French counter-revolutionary group on a chain round her neck. But then Roberto Maroni, the interior minister, is also a member of the League. And the jazz-loving "Bobo," when often turns up at ceremonial functions wearing shades and stubble, is an admirer of his fellow sax-player, Bill Clinton.

With such a miscellaneous team behind him, the leader of the Northern League, Umberto Bossi, felt he could switch his party's allegiances from a rightist government to a leftist opposition. But when he did so, there was a rebellion in support of continued loyalty to the Mr. Berlusconi administration. And, inexplicably in any conventional terms, it was the "progressive" Mr. Maroni who put himself at the head of it. Clearly, much that is odd and new is happening in Italy. But what, exactly?

It has been suggested that the entire country has become a sort of political research laboratory for a world transformed by the fall of the Wall, and that the experiments being conducted in it offer the rest of us a fascinating, if disturbing, glimpse of the future: one in which politics will have little to do with ideology, and in which the crucial battle will be not so much for votes as for control of the means of communication.

That highly persuasive and seemingly cohesive view is nevertheless made up of several different propositions, none of which necessarily implies any other. It may be true that



the Italians have unwittingly turned their country into a kind of political test bench in the years since 1986. But it does not mean that they have done so because of the end of the cold war. Nor, even if that were the case, does it mean that the results of their experiments need apply to anyone but themselves. By the same token, no one has ever proved an inherent link between television and ideological vacuousness, even though it may be commonplace to infer one.

Against this complex background, some simple questions would seem to be in order. What, for a start, is genuinely new? It did not need recent events in Italy to show that television can have a powerful influence on politics. But whereas TV has been used elsewhere to promote politicians, in contemporary Italy it is being used to create them.

Italian society would also appear to be throwing up new sorts of political leaders, with no previous experience of politics, and new kinds of political parties, that transcend the traditional left to right classification.

But which of these authentically original phenomena can be attributed to a new global order and which to specifically Italian circumstances? Which could have implications for the rest of the world and which only for Italy?

So far, the only politician to have been created by television has been Mr. Berlusconi, and he is unique. His control over the output of television would have been prevented in other countries by the application of anti-trust laws which, in Italy, proved to be defective and avoidable.

Nevertheless, as satellite channels rival terrestrial ones, national anti-trust will become increasingly irrelevant. To the extent that they do, the risks of a future Mr. Berlusconi establishing ascendancy over a particular nation

increase. The appeal to Italians of amateur political leaders may well have something to do with a global retreat from ideology. Just as plausibly, though, it can be seen as the result of a different, and uniquely Italian, phenomenon: the discrediting by scandal of an entire class of professional political leaders.

Huge gaps have been left in what, in the Latin language, is called the "political space" — that notional territory which, in a democracy, is rightly inhabited by politicians. Something similar happened following decolonisation in Latin America in the 19th century and in much of the rest of the Third World in the 20th. In those areas, it was usually soldiers who leapt in to fill the gaps, claiming to offer a competence and honesty which indigenous politicians had been unable to supply.

Contemporary Italy seems to be providing the answer to the question of what happens when similar conditions arise in the sort of society in which a coup is unthinkable — the "political space" is invaded just the same, but by media moguls, and perhaps courtroom celebrities.

The emergence of parties in Italy which are difficult to classify on conventional criteria would seem at least to be one development that could safely be attributed to the disappearance of cold war tensions. Once again, though, there is a snag.

The outstanding example, of such a group is the Northern League and it was founded before and not after the fall of the Wall. It was created, moreover, in support of a specifically Italian protest — against the diversion of resources to a poor, corrupt and inefficient South.

The one party of significance to have emerged in

communism.

The paradox is more apparent than real. What kept the Italian Communist Party from office was not just the resistance to it offered by the Christian Democrats and their allies, but also the PCI's association with a repressive and inefficient Soviet Union. Both these handicaps vanished in the years following 1989. The Soviet Union disintegrated. The Christian Democrats disappeared in a flurry of sleaze. Mr. Berlusconi entered politics to prevent the PCI, newly remodelled as the Democratic Party of the Left, from exploiting the opportunity which those two developments presented.

But while he succeeded at the hustings, he has failed in office, and the danger now is that the collapse of his bizarre experiment could deliver the initiative to his ally, Gianfranco Fini of the neo-fascist MSI. That could create an old-style left-right confrontation of an intensity unparalleled elsewhere in Europe.

If there are lessons to be drawn from events in Italy, therefore, they would seem to be substantially different from those outlined earlier. One, with obvious implications for countries like France, Spain and Greece, is that if corruption is allowed to become systematic it can have devastatingly disorienting long-term consequences comparable with those provoked by military intervention.

Another, with much wider relevance, is that control of television can be used, not as an opiate, but for unambiguously precise ideological ends. A third conclusion only applies to Italy, but is perhaps the most remarkable of all: that in Italy, of all places, the traditional conflict between left and right is still at the heart of politics, and

Changing laws of gravity pull 'foreign affairs' east

By Thomas L. Friedman

TOKYO — A "foreign affairs" column now returns to The New York Times. "Foreign affairs" is actually the paper's oldest column. It was begun in 1937 by the remarkable Anne O'Hare McCormick and was originally called "In Europe." In those days "In Europe" was foreign affairs for most Americans, and it seemed perfectly natural that the paper's one overseas columnist was rooted on the European Continent.

Mrs. McCormick's 1954 obituary in The Times said that she got her start in foreign reporting "as the wife of Mr. McCormick, a Dayton engineer whom she accompanied on frequent buying trips to Europe."

Obviously, I was born in a very different era, one in which columnists only have to accompany their curiosity and engineers travel to Tokyo for buying trips, not Paris.

Both factors have led me to start my column from Japan. While I have no intention of calling my column "In Asia," the thought did cross my mind. Let's face it, when the history of the late 20th century is written, the most important event may not be the reconstruction of Europe, the cold war or the collapse of communism, but rather the rapid modernisation in one generation of 2 billion people from Japan to the border of India. Never have so many raised their standard of living so far so fast.

I was in Singapore recently when its government decided that to keep attracting top-quality cabinet ministers, it would pay them about two-thirds of the average salary of the country's senior doctors, bankers and CEOs. That comes to \$765,000 a year for the prime minister and \$400,000 for the others.

No wonder an American diplomat in Hong Kong told me: "I go to parties here and without fail I am the poorest person at every event. The BMWs and Rolls-Royces roll in one after the other, and then I show up with my little Japanese car. During my first tour here a decade ago, I felt like Gulliver among the Lilliputians. We represented the future. Now I feel like I am brought along to parties as a potted plant for adornment."

Yet, Walter Mondale, the U.S. ambassador to Japan, complains that many American businessmen, educational and religious organisations "still don't see the importance of Asia."

The American ambassador in Tokyo is being restored by a Japanese construction company because there were no American contractors here skilled enough to do the delicate job. A new study by the Mansfield Centre found that there is still four times as much news about America on Japanese television as news of Japan on American television.

But if we Americans are still smug about Asians, always waiting for their bubble to burst, it is nothing compared with their smugness towards America. They think they can defy the laws of gravity — that economic consequences won't have political consequences. You cannot have a conversation in Asia without being verbally canted over how flawed America has become and how superior is the "Asian Way." Their smugness, though, is as misplaced as ours.

How long can Asian governments keep their people so regimented and focused on export growth when their middle classes are growing so wealthy? Take Singapore. Thanks to its stern government, it is clean, rich and seriously boring. Singapore is a shopping mall with passport controls. Any wonder American televangelists and Oprah Winfrey are increasingly popular out there?

How long can Japan's government keep telling its youth that they have to accept lower wages and live in apartments as big as my garage so that Japanese companies can put all their profits into expanding markets abroad? How long will Japanese consumers pay \$70 for a watermelon because Japan protects its highly inefficient food industry from foreign competition?

How long is China's leadership, the smuggest of all since it forced President Bill Clinton to eat crow on human rights, going to be able to keep the lid on a country that is economically becoming North Carolina and politically still North Korea? And how long will Asians tolerate the fact that the economic boom has left them with five of the seven most polluted cities in the world?

The answer to all of the above is: not much longer, and that's why I chose to start here. Asia is not only going to be the world's biggest business story in the coming years. The economic revolution here is well under way, but the political

Cabinet assured of vote

(Continued from page 1)

Haddadin (Zarka), who, along with deputies Mustafa Shneikat (Salt) and Khalil Haddadin (Amman), represented leftist lawmakers in a meeting with Sharif Zeid on Sunday.

He said the three deputies will vote against the government.

So will deputy Talal Obeidat (Bani Kenaneh, near Irbid), who told the Jordan Times he would withhold confidence from the government because it will implement the peace treaty with Israel.

With informed parliamentary sources expecting Deputy Toujan Faisal will most likely withhold confidence, the number of deputies who will certainly vote against the government is 22. Observers say opposition might also come from a few deputies who are unhappy with the government because they wanted to join it and were not given the chance to do so. Accordingly, the government is not likely to get more than 54-to-56 votes of confidence, the sources said.

Apart from the IAF, the four parliamentary blocs in the House are represented in the cabinet and so are independent lawmakers.

Founder of the 18-member National Action Front Abdul Hadi Al Majali said Sharif Zeid responded to his group's request for occupying five of its members in the cabinet and he pledged the group will fully cooperate with the government.

The 10-member National Democratic Coalition has four representatives in the government and its spokesman, Hammad Abu Jamous, said the group will fully support the prime minister.

So will the nine-member Jordanian National Front which has two members on Sharif Zeid's team, and the Parliament Ikha' (Brotherhood), which has five members of whom one joined the government.

House Speaker Sa'd Hayel Srour said Sharif Zeid recognises the role of the House and the need for developing strong legislative-executive relations.

On the basis of the House's experience with Sharif Zeid when he formed his second government and his assertive to Mr. Srour last week that he wants to fully cooperate with the House, the House speaker expected the new government to work in harmony with the legislature.

Perry flies over Golan

(Continued from page 1)

posed an "atomic threat," and urged Middle Eastern countries to press for the destruction of Israeli nuclear arsenals.

Later Monday, Mr. Perry said Washington would endeavour to control the supply of nuclear materials to Tehran after Moscow signed a deal to build a nuclear power station in Iran.

"We are working with Russia and former Soviet countries to help control nuclear and fissile material," Mr. Perry told a joint press conference with Mr. Rabin.

Both Israel and the United States were "very concerned" that Iran may develop nuclear capabilities, the defence secretary said. "In my own judgement the time for Iran to get it depends on the assistance they can get."

"I believe that it will take Iran many, many years to achieve nuclear weapons but they have the possibility to acquire uranium and plutonium in the short range," he said.

Moscow agreed Sunday to help Iran build the first phase of a nuclear power station in the town of Bushehr and to provide enriched uranium to operate it.

Mr. Rabin told the press conference: "In the long term our main concern is Iran's

military capability on conventional and non-conventional weapons in a term of seven to 15 years."

Mr. Perry looked to Israel to support the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, saying the United States hoped for a maximum number of signatories when the accord is renewed in April.

"We hope that Israel will help us concerning the NPT," he said.

Mr. Perry did not comment on Mr. Rabin's denial of reports that Israel has transferred U.S. military technology to China.

"We have a joint committee which has been established a few years ago," the secretary said. "I have complete confidence that Israel will conduct a serious investigation."

"We do everything to comply to U.S. laws with regard to the last user of U.S. material," Mr. Rabin said.

The Los Angeles Times has reported that Israel has helped China in the development of a new fighter jet with joint U.S.-Israeli technology from the Lavi project abandoned in 1987.

Mr. Perry reaffirmed Washington's commitment to maintain Israel's qualitative military edge over Arab neighbours.

Arafat, Peres discuss self-rule

(Continued from page 1)

in and went to the Palestinians' hotel for the first time since the election talks began in Cairo last year.

Dr. Erekat said this round of talks would last for two days.

"We are opening our discussions on elections and hopefully it will be a fruitful one," Gen. Zohar told reporters.

Asked what importance this round of talks would have in light of the meeting on Monday between Mr. Arafat and Mr. Peres in Gaza, Gen. Zohar replied:

"The importance is that there is ongoing discussions on all the issues all the time everywhere. We are going to discuss everything. We are not going to tell you the details of what we are going to discuss but it's open for all the issues that have to do with the elections."

Palestinian sources described the talks as low key and said they could not achieve anything without the redeployment of Israeli troops.

Palestinians have said they will not vote under the barrel of Israeli guns.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said last month that the Palestinian elections

could take place without a withdrawal.

Several rounds of talks have come to nothing. The two sides disagree over the qualifications for candidates and voters. Israel wants to ban hardliners who advocate violence against the Jewish state. The PLO objects to any Israeli veto.

Israel also demands a joint Israeli-Palestinian committee to monitor the polls, a demand rejected by the Palestinians.

Dr. Erekat could not say whether the two sides were close to a deal, but said "we are trying to reach to an accord."

But he repeated Palestinian assertions that no elections could take place without an Israeli redeployment.

Palestinian Cooperation Minister Nabil Shaath voiced satisfaction with the establishment of a committee to handle the prisoner issue, consisting of Police Minister Moshe Shahal, Environment Minister Yossi Sarid and Justice Minister David Libai.

"I hope the decision (to free prisoners) will be taken quickly," Dr. Shaath told Monday's Al Quds newspaper.

Pitched battles in Grozny

(Continued from page 1)

Kurbanov maintained Monday that Mr. Dudayev remained in the presidential palace.

Mr. Dudayev has not been seen in public for a week. His supporters remain in Grozny, life has been

A bridge about 100 metres behind the palace — the link to the only route out of the capital, not yet controlled by the Russian forces — was also inaccessible Monday because of shelling and continued fighting.

Peace needs strong support to hold

The following is the full text of a speech given by His Royal Highness Prince Talal Bin Mohammad at the annual conference of the United Jewish Appeal in Palm Beach, Florida on Jan. 7.

IT IS a great pleasure to be with you here tonight. Let me begin by conveying to all of you His Majesty King Hussein's and His Royal Highness Prince Hassan's warmest greetings.

Let me also express the thought that as one of the sons of Jordan, I believe the historic moments that we are living today are not only of particular importance to both our peoples, but also represent a time of great opportunities. Opportunities for each and every one of us to work for the betterment of life of all human beings from our part of the world who have suffered for far too long.

For the next few minutes, I would like to discuss the Jordanian-Israeli peace from my country's perspective. As most of you know, we, in Jordan, have for decades advocated reaching a peaceful settlement in the Arab-Israeli conflict since the days of my late grandfather, King Abdullah. This position has often caused us great hardship, especially when other parties in the region were not yet ready to accept any such settlement.

At the Madrid Peace Conference of 1991, Jordan was the only country that attended with the conviction that a political solution would not be forced on the belligerent parties by the two co-sponsors, the United States and Russia.

In addition, it was Jordan that was one of the key parties to the conflict, the Palestinians, to attend the peace conference by providing

them with an umbrella.

As a result of Jordan's independent will, we would describe the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty as a natural evolution of our efforts. The drive towards the peace treaty began in 1988 when Jordan became engaged in a process of internal consolidation. That year, the Kingdom severed administrative and legal ties with the West Bank and Jordan was able to resume normal parliamentary life. Before that time, elections were impeded by the fact that half of the seats in Parliament were allotted to the West Bank.

Jordan proceeded to legalise political parties, maintaining a dialogue with the entire political spectrum of Jordanian society, thus compelling us to resort to extra-legal means in order to be heard. Jordan today has the freest and fairest parliamentary system in the Arab World.

This leads me to a brief summary of Jordan's objectives. Our goal is to provide a political model for the rest of the region: A model where institutions are not dependent on individual personalities; a model in which people will always come first.

Although Jordan's democratic process may be viewed as a threat by some of its neighbours, we consider it to be an irreversible process and we will not compromise the principles of freedom, the rule of law and popular participation in government for the sake of political expediency.

The building of institutions, however, would ultimately crumble without the crucial elements of economic and social stability brought by peace.



In real terms, the peace treaty with Israel reasserts Jordan's traditional role as a key player in the resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

On a broader level, the treaty has also prevented the collapse of the entire peace process. Indeed, the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty has become the anchor of a regional peace, especially when faced with stagnation on the Syrian-Israeli track and the unacceptably high death toll in Israel and the occupied territories due to the rise of extremism.

Against this somewhat gloomy background, it is all the more imperative

that Jordan's peace treaty with Israel be supported by all of those who wish to see a comprehensive settlement to the conflict. We have all, young and old, waited far too long for this peace. Too many of us have died, too many hopes have been crushed. As the Prophet Moses advised, we choose life.

The hard truth is that a difficult road lies ahead. Our most pressing need is to bridge the wide disparities existing between Jordanian and Israeli societies.

On the one hand, we share almost identical population levels, high standards of adult literacy and education, on the other hand, the Israeli economy is 12 times larger than that of Jordan's and the per capita income

seven times that of Jordan's. Today, one in five Jordanians lives below the poverty line.

These discrepancies should be addressed as quickly as possible in order to maintain the confidence of every Jordanian in the peace treaty.

In Jordan today, expectations are running high but we are faced with a limited window of opportunity in order to act. The enemies of peace wish to see us fail and time is running in their favour. For this reason, we must focus on realism rather than idealism. Long-term projects, such as a Red Sea-Dead Sea canal are very exciting, but we need substance today.

By experiencing the tangible economic benefits of peace, our people will move readily to be able to overcome the psychological and cultural barriers that have accumulated over half a century. Jordanians and Israelis must act with sensitivity towards each other.

We should adopt a gradual approach in our attempts at altering the human environment in our region. Any move to force the pace of this change, as well meaning as it may be, might do more harm than good.

The Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty, and all progress on the other tracks achieved so far, could not have been possible without the active and persistent involvement of the United States. America must continue its supporting role in order to make peace a success.

As a result, it is essential that Jordan receives help from its friends in the United States in order to achieve its immediate, intermediate and long-term

economic and military needs. These needs are not small and their attainment will significantly alter the status-quo in favour of a stable and lasting regional peace.

On Oct. 26 of last year in a former minefield in Wadi Araba, Jordan and Israel signed a warm, real peace, a peace quite different from previous peace treaties. The historic step that was taken by the people of Jordan and the people of Israel was founded on mutual respect, the desire for normalisation and the best interest of future generations.

Today, no peacekeeping troops nor international monitors stand between Jordan and Israel. It is because they are needed. What Jordan and Israel do need is political and economic security, stability and prosperity. Jordanian and Israeli children have the right to grow and live in peace.

If someone had told me a year ago that there would be an Israeli embassy in Amman today and that Israeli tourists were enjoying Petra for the first time, I might have thought they were taking too much Halal.

But, thankfully, when desire, ability and genuine intentions come together, miracles do happen. And a miracle certainly did happen in the hot desert of Wadi Araba last October the 26th.

To quote His Majesty King Hussein speaking at the treaty signing ceremony at Wadi Araba:

"I wish this treaty to be the gift by which I express my gratitude to all Jordanians, young and old, men and women and to all the members of this cherished family to which I am proud to belong and will always be proud of as long as I live."



What kind of man do you take me for?

Two classic revivals are giving all the parts to men. Liberating, sexy or just confusing?

By Dominic Cavendish

DECLAN DONNELLAN, the artistic director of the famously fearless touring company Cheek By Jowl, is sitting on his sofa acting cagey about As You Like It.

"It was made very strange in rehearsal because they were practice skirts and when they stopped to go off and have a coffee or light a fat it was as though there had been women in the room," he pauses.

"The things we discovered are not the sort of things I can easily talk about in an interview, because they are emotional and instinctual — they change as soon as you talk about them."

It's a funny business, this talking about men in skirts, but if you do an all-male production of a Shakespearean comedy then you have to expect a certain amount of insatiable curiosity from outsiders. In Shakespeare's day, no one would have batted an eyelid — all-male casts were the norm — nowadays any experiment that takes roles away from women and touches the prickly subject of gender is a potentially explosive one.

Yet, the first professional all-male As You Like It since Clifford Williams' Theatre Company's 1977 production, the more the audience noticed the gap. It was the moment I got into

Donnellan, on the current tour it has even been a hit with Russian mafiosi and Romanian schoolgirls. So, what, exactly, is he doing right? Neither he, nor his actors, seem quite able to put their finger on it.

In fact, Donnellan was so conscious of the dramatic gamble he was taking that he even had a mixed-cast alternative on stand-by in case things didn't work out. From day one, the guiding principle was to be deliberately uncomplicated. "We went in with one given — that we were going to have an all-male company as Shakespeare would have done and that we were going to avoid camp at all costs." To have largely steered clear of the subtle misogynies of camp in a play where the heroine, Rosalind, flees to a forest and, disguised as a man, pretends to be herself in order to test her lover Orlando, is no small achievement. Particularly when the actor playing Rosalind, in red dress and pearls, is the 6ft 2in tall Adrian Lester.

Lester explains that it was through playing Ganymede (the name Rosalind takes when she assumes a man's appearance) that he discovered "femininity. I was trying to be a woman and the more I tried, the more the audience noticed the gap. It was the moment I got into

trousers and forgot about trying to be female that the audience started to believe I was." Surprisingly, these added layers of sexual identity (a man playing a woman playing a man playing a woman) are less problematic for actors and audience than that of men just playing women.

Any actor who is asked to transform himself into a woman is either going to wonder why he has been chosen or worry that he'll end up as a grotesque caricature. Both Lester and Simon Coates, who plays Celia, Rosalind's girlhood friend, were immediately troubled by their physical differences; Lester in particular was convinced he was too tall. Although they were trained in movement, they were told not to imitate but to look for an inner femininity.

In rehearsal, started repressing traits he considered too testosterone-based. "The second I became in any way aggressive on stage, I thought 'Oh my God, I'm being masculine.' But Declan said 'You've really got to go for the aggression.'"

Switching into the female is now second nature to both actors. "I see Adrian as a woman all the time on stage," says Coates. "Off-stage, too, their behaviour has changed. 'In your dressing-room, there's more of a physical relationship between me and

Adrian than there might normally be if we were playing men. We're always saying 'Would you do my dress up?' or 'Do I look all right?' — it's odd."

The pair still encounter actresses who take them to task for being inaccurate. But as Richard Eyre has observed about cross-dressing in general, however good the performances, you never forget you are watching men. Donnellan believes the all-male cast forces the audience to tread a tightrope of willed belief, a quintessentially theatrical act of faith. "Exposing the nuts and bolts of theatre actually makes you more involved in the play. Instead of being a clever essay on gender confusion the device opened up the play's emotional heart."

Another forthcoming all-male production, Alimbo Theatre's version of Sheridan's 1775 comedy of manners, The Rivals, takes a very different tack. Subtitled "A Queer Appropriation", it acquired a cult fringe status last October by turning the women characters into men and thrusting the drawing-room shenanigans into Nineties Soho.

The experiences of the actors, though, were surprisingly similar to their counterparts in Cheek By Jowl in all-but-one respect. "Early rehearsals resembled a 'spot the queen' competition," according to Paul Ebsworth, who plays the

self-obsessed Faulkland. "Those of us who were straight managed to work ex-girlfriends into discussions very early on. The first question people asked me after the show was always 'Who's gay and who's straight?'" By contrast, within Cheek By Jowl, the sexuality of the actors was not an issue, though Coates and Lester are widely (and wrongly) assumed to be gay by audiences. "The men never look you in the eye if they come back-stage," says Coates.

The director of The Rivals, Robin Baker, uses the gay context to satirise the play's marriage-oriented power games — with mixed results. "My anxieties were that this was actually a woman in the text," explains Phillip Gates, who plays capricious Lydia Langrish. "The only way I found to bridge the gap was to rely on my emotions, i.e. why would I — not he, not she — why would I do that?"

What Gates hit on was that once you put a man in the place of the opposite sex, none of the characters' emotions can simply be labelled "male", or "female". The actors have to latch on to character rather than gender (all men and women are merely players). Scott Handy found it terrifying playing Orlando, the male lead in As You Like It. "Playing opposite a Rosalind bigger

than me made me feel insufficiently male. Then I realised the play is also about Orlando having to play a man."

In this, the production seems to strike a chord with the confusion surrounding that late-20th century phenomenon, the "new man", the man who can change the nappy with one hand, fix the drains with the other. One of the reasons why audiences may find the play so gripping is that in a play that explores the language of love, Rosalind's speech runs rings around Orlando. But the difference between the articulate and inarticulate male seems to be only a dress away.

"It's odd that highlighting the gender leads you quite quickly to one of the most moving lines of the play, when Ganymede promises to set Rosalind before Orlando 'human as she is,'" says Donnellan. "In the tangible world we have built, we are so conscious of our differences, and here is this line reminding you that what really matters is a human being." He smiles. "For me, the issue of the actors' gender retreated until the first night, when they all walked on for the first time and I sat there in the audience thinking 'My God, what have we done? — we've got blokes in dresses'."

The index

AY, JANUARY 10, 1995

Mighty mouse

halts airliner

STOCKHOLM (AP) —

clusive and stubborn

made fools of Swedish

SAS, forcing it to

New York-bound flight

overed on board.

Nyheter said Sunday

as it roamed freely

during a trans-Atlantic

to Sweden. When

passengers landed

combed from cockpit

but turned up no

crafty creature. Security

relations bar ferry

tomers, and SAS were

to cancel the return

New York. U.S. border

sengers had to fly

instead. The mouse

alone to Copenhagen.

Swedish album

Lion King

soundtrack top

1994 U.S. hits

NASHVILLE, Tenn.

(AP) — Swedish rock

Age of Base's The

multi-artist sound-

track for Disney's The

lion King. The album

led in first place on

best-selling album

chart Sunday. It

beat seven million

copies sold. The

album is the first

by a Swedish

group to top the

chart. The album

is the first by a

Swedish group to

top the chart.

Everyday After by

the Crowes and by

Jam — each sold

more than a

million copies.

Doogystyle by

Doogystyle by

Doogystyle by

Doogystyle by

Doogystyle by

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Business daily beat

A review
of economic news
from the Arabic press

SSC hikes earnings from tourism investments

★ The Social Security Corporation (SSC) earned JD 2.41 million from its tourism investments during the first nine months of last year, compared to JD 2.45 million earned during 1993. The SSC's investments in the tourism sector amount to JD 21 million, of which JD 16.75 million are investments in hotels and restaurants. The 19 resthouses together made a net profit of 225,000 during the January-September period in 1994. Only three resthouses, at Dibbene, Azraq and Ishtafena, recorded losses and the SSC is putting them up for sale or suretyship although they only account for 5.4 per cent of the total investment in the tourism sector (Al Aswad).

★ The American government donated two oil drills to the Natural Resources Authority (NRA). The drills can go to a depth of 7,000 metres, nearly 2,500 metres deeper than by the drills being used now by the NRA (Al Dustour).

★ A Chinese economic delegation will begin a visit today (Tuesday) and will hold talks with officials at the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce and at the Amman Chamber of Industry to boost trade and set up joint projects (Al Dustour).

★ The Ministry of Supply is inviting offers to supply 50,000 tonnes of barley, which arrive before Feb. 5, 1995. The last date to submit offers is Jan. 11, 1995. The Kingdom purchases most of the barley from Syria which supplied Jordan with 300,000 tonnes last year. Syria is currently shipping 200,000 tonnes of barley that was contracted directly between the two countries. Traders estimate the deal was priced at \$85 per tonne. Jordan's annual imports of barley are about 500,000 tonnes (Al Ra'i).

★ The ministerial committee entrusted to prepare a study on transforming the Natural Resources Authority (NRA) to a shareholding company, entirely owned by the state, has presented its report to the council of ministers for approval and submission to the Lower House of Parliament. An official at the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources said the oil exploration section at the NRA would be transformed into a petroleum and gas company that, in the first stage, would be totally owned by the government. At an advanced stage, a portion of its shares would be floated for public subscription in a move towards a total transfer of the company to the private sector. Studies are also under way to privatise the Jordan Electricity Authority and the Telecommunications Corporation (Al Dustour).

★ The Ministry of Water and Irrigation is awaiting recommendations from a special committee set up to study changes for irrigation water with a view to achieve fairness and avoid wastage and not harm small farmers. According to the minister, charges for drinking and irrigation water will remain at about the same level for most farmers. Irrigation water used to cost six fils a cubic metre before it was raised to 15 fils. A further increase, to 36 fils per cubic metre, was due to take effect at the beginning of this year but was stopped pending the above mentioned study (Al Ra'i).

★ The Jordan Export Development and Trade Centres Corporation invites all interested industrialists and businessmen to participate in Europartnership which will be held in Dortmund-Germany between March 20 to 21, 1995. More than 350 German companies from different commercial and industrial sectors will be taking part.

East Europe farmers are biggest losers from reforms

VIENNA (AFP) — Farmers are proving to be the biggest losers as eastern Europe wrenches its Soviet-style planned economies apart to tailor them to the free market, five years after headline communism collapsed.

Freeing of prices and drastic drops in farm subsidies set off a dizzying upwards spiral of prices and pushed domestic demand downwards. The final blow to farm exports came with the loss of the traditional Soviet market because the countries of the successor Commonwealth of Independent States had no foreign exchange.

Abu Dhabi starts liquefied gas sales to Europe

ABU DHABI (R) — Abu Dhabi Gas Liquefaction Co. (Adgas) is selling its liquefied natural gas (LNG) in Europe for the first time, the company's Adgas news magazine said.

Adgas is an Abu Dhabi foreign joint venture. It is currently the Gulf's only LNG producer although new plants are due to come on-stream in Qatar and Oman in the next few years.

"Agreement has been reached with ... Distrigaz of Belgium and Gaz de France for the sale and purchase of three cargoes of LNG over the next three months," said the magazine.

Adgas has a long-term contract to sell all its LNG to Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO) and recently doubled its production capacity to five million tonnes per year.

The magazine said the Abu Dhabi company sold LNG not needed by TEPCO to third parties.

Farming subsidies in Eastern Europe are scarcely a fifth of what Western governments pay their farmers.

In Hungary, agriculture accounts for 17 per cent of gross domestic product and employs 19 per cent of the national workforce. It has slashed farm subsidies from 44 per cent in 1987 to eight per cent (\$265 million) in 1993 of the value of production.

The government is planning to push them back up gradually to 20 per cent as a way of getting exports to pick up to \$1.6 billion for the first 10 months of the year, covering 15 per cent of output. Of that percentage, 45 per cent is earmarked for the European market.

Half a dozen years ago, as a leader in the field, Hungary was exporting some 30 per cent of its farm produce. One of its rare competitive products on the Western market is wheat, grown in especially favourable conditions.

Bulgaria was an exporter five years ago, but agricultural reforms have brought unprecedented shortages and necessitated massive farm imports.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET			
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ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR MONDAY 09/01/1995			
COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	NEW CLOSING PRICE
ARAB BANK	740	139650	183.750
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	3196	13755	4.350
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK / NEW	59311	245025	4.210
BANK OF JORDAN	2078	7889	3.750
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	1500	2400	1.660
THE HOUSING BANK	1550	8925	5.720
JORDAN KUNAIF BANK	6579	19904	3.000
JORDAN GULF BANK	120	164	1.640
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	22586	84839	3.750
UNION BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT	250	1275	5.000
BEIT ELNAH SAVINGS INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	1900	6093	3.260
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	10450	15866	1.940
ARAB BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	700	2835	4.170
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	5150	8728	1.700
BANKS SECTOR	116180	557285	159.21
JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE	1450	3569	2.470
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	9312	25411	2.720
AL-NISR AL-ARABI INSURANCE	200	950	5.000
INSURANCE SECTOR	10962	29929	137.42
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	6672	10404	1.570
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER / NEW	14958	22450	1.510
IRBID DISTRICT ELECTRICITY	200	13930	5.500
JORDAN RIMES MINERAL	3450	9988	2.950
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	10050	51209	5.080
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	600	1482	2.500
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	50	89	1.370
JORDAN GULF REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	5750	7418	1.320
MACHINERY EQUIP. RENTING & MAINTENANCE	500	375	780
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & COMMODORE HOTELS	11500	26280	2.480
ARAB INTER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	8500	29225	3.450
SERVICES SECTOR	62230	161195	135.21
ATTANJEER CONST. MATERIAL MANUFACTURING	750	1013	1.370
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	29322	86510	2.960
JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES	1250	3650	2.920
THE ARAB POTASH/NEW	1350	13930	5.500
JORDAN PHOSPHATE REFINERY	3700	36244	8.950
JORDAN TANNING	1260	9420	7.200
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	400	1740	4.350
THE JORDAN WOODSTOCK KILLS	6348	50956	8.030
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	14539	14539	1.700
JORDAN CERAMIC INDUSTRIES	1000	6300	6.250
THE JORDAN PIPES MANUFACTURING	250	700	2.800
ARAB CHEMICAL DEHYDRATION INDUSTRIES	300	3200	16.800
SPINNING & WEAVING	3687	10077	7.730
RAPIA INDUSTRIES	2650	7286	2.840
DAK AL DANA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	2000	13308	16.800
WESTERN INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	2524	27514	1.090
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	69700	66010	970
JORDAN PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	5800	8354	1.460
JORDAN INDUSTRIES & MATCH/JMCO	17200	14558	880
NATIONAL CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING	650	3467	5.320
JORDAN SUBPOT-CHIMICALS	1150	2655	2.030
KAWTHAR INVESTMENT	250	450	1.820
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	5200	21868	4.260
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	11000	24072	2.250
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR	194876	446750	130.10
GRAND TOTAL	384248	1195160	145.38
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET	226823		
VALUE TRADED IN PARALLEL MARKET	248012		

Iranians urged to boycott Coke, Pepsi

TEHRAN (AFP) — Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has urged Iranians to boycott the popular U.S. soft drinks Coke and Pepsi Cola in a bid to weaken the United States economy, a newspaper reported Monday.

In a religious decree published by the headline daily Kayhan, the Iranian leader said: "Any act which strengthens the pillars of world arrogance (the United States) and the Zionist circles is intrinsically haram (forbidden by Islam)." He was responding to a question on the issue in his capacity as a religious authority, or Marja-e-Taghaid, for Shiite Muslims.

Coca Cola and Pepsi Cola made a comeback in Iran a year ago, 15 years after the Islamic revolution which toppled the pro-American Shah. The drinks were banned as symbols of "undesirable" U.S. culture.

However the issue has been at the centre of a debate for the past year, with Islamic hardliners demanding that sales of U.S. soft drinks be banned.

Bulgarian arms exports recover after communism collapse

SOFIA (AFP) — Bulgaria increased its exports of military equipment by 130-140 per cent in 1994 from the figure for 1993, an arms industry official has said.

The official, Ivan Kolev, vice president of the government council for military industry, gave the figure in an interview with the daily newspaper "24 Tchassa."

The arms industry had overcome a crisis caused by the collapse of communist governments and the dissolution of the defensive Warsaw Pact and was "now establishing a stable base," Mr. Kolev said.

In the first half of 1994 alone, income of companies in the arms industry had been 70 per cent greater than in

the whole of 1993, and now 37 per cent of arms companies were making a profit. In 1993 this figure had been scarcely 16 per cent.

General Stoyan Andreyev, a former military adviser to President Jelio Jeleff, has said that the sector had earned about \$1 billion per year from 1981 to 1986.

Following the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact and the loss of Arab markets such as Libya and Syria, countries seen by the democratic government in Bulgaria as sympathising with "terrorism," the sector had fallen into crisis marked by demonstrations and strikes by workers who had not been paid for several months.

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London Exchange Rates

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Monday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs	1.4028/38	Canadian dollar
	1.5588/98	Deutschemarks
	1.7474/84	Dutch guilders
	1.3076/86	Swiss francs
	32.08/12	Belgian francs
	5.3818/68	French francs
	1629.40/4	Italian lire
	100.88/98	Japanese yen
	7.5175/75	Swedish crowns
	6.8010/60	Norwegian crowns
	6.1295/45	Danish crowns
One sterling	\$1.5304/0	
One ounce of gold	\$372.40/372.90	

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UNRWA UHB(A) VACANCIES

The United Nations Relief & Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East requires at its Headquarters Branch (offices located in Bayader/Wadi Seer).

1. PURCHASING OFFICERS (6 posts: Grades 11-13)

(a) Monthly take-home pay ranging from about JD340 up plus Dependency allowance, plus Provident Fund from about JD.80 per month payable at end of service; as well as compulsory medical insurance.

(b) Incumbents will be responsible for the international procurement of supplies and equipment, coordinating with various UNRWA offices in English (main working language).

(c) Essential & highly desirable qualifications: University degree in Public or Business Administration; knowledge of international shipping regulations; packing systems and procurement technology; five years experience in a large purchasing activity; and working knowledge of computerised purchasing and material management systems. Fluency in English and Arabic is essential.

2. SENIOR SUPPLY OFFICER (BASIC COMMODITIES & INSURANCE)

(a) Grade 18: Monthly take-home pay starting about JD.680 plus Dependency allowance, plus Provident Fund of about JD.165 per month payable at end of service; as well as compulsory medical insurance.

(b) Is responsible for the procurement of all basic commodities required for UNRWA programmes; also is responsible for all insurance coverage and claims processing; controls stocks and logistics of basic commodities to meet Agency programme needs.

(c) Essential & highly desirable qualifications: University degree in Business Administration or related subject; training in supply management, international shipping marine, vehicle and property insurance, accounting and related EDP applications. 8 years' experience in the application of the academic knowledge acquired; demonstrated ability to operate PCs and standard Agency software in the context of supply operations. Very good knowledge of English & Arabic is essential.

3. SUPPLY OFFICERS (3 posts: Grades 13 & 15 in Basic Commodities & Insurance, and another in General Stores)

(a) Monthly take-home pay ranging from about JD.420 up, plus Dependency allowance, plus Provident Fund of about JD.100 per month payable at end of service; as well as compulsory medical insurance.

(b) Assisting the respective Senior Supply Officers with the procurement, shipping, storing and insuring of supplies and commodities required in Agency programmes; co-ordinating, exercising procurement progress control and monitoring cyclic purchasing activities.

(c) Essential & highly desirable qualifications: University degree in commerce, business administration or related discipline; six years' experience in application of this academic knowledge; demonstrated ability to operate PC and standard software for supply operations; good knowledge of shipping and commercial law and practice, including documentation, and port operations. Fluency in English and Arabic is essential.

4. ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER (Supply Division)

(a) Grade 14: Monthly take-home pay starting about JD.470 plus Dependency allowance, plus Provident Fund of about JD.110 per month payable at end of service; as well as compulsory medical insurance.

(b) Responsible for the administrative functions of the Supply Division such as budgeting, expenditure monitoring including the efficient use of communication services, assists with Supply personnel matters, maintains the register & locator cards of equipment at UHB (Amman), arranges for testing of commodities (quality control).

(c) Essential & highly desirable qualifications: University degree in Business Administration or related discipline; five years' experience in administrative post, of which at least two in supply-related work. Demonstrated ability to operate PC and standard supply software. Very good knowledge of English and Arabic is essential.

5. REALITY DATA BASE ADMINISTRATOR:

(a) Grade 14: Monthly take-home pay starting about JD.470 plus Dependency allowance, plus Provident Fund of about JD.110 per month payable at end of service; as well as compulsory medical insurance.

(b) Responsible for the maintenance of all support files in the data base (including e.g. catalogues, lists of suppliers) and technical information (such as global & security settings, user authorization tables); provides on-the-job PC training of supply staff and supports the users.

(c) Essential & highly desirable qualifications: University degree in computer science or a related subject. 5 years' experience in applying this academic knowledge, three years' experience on PC and Novell LAN at user level, including basic hardware operation; knowledge of data base management concepts; demonstrated ability to operate PCs and knowledge of standard supply software.

Very good knowledge of English and Arabic is essential.

6. INSURANCE ASSISTANT (Basic Commodities)

(a) Grade 11: Monthly take-home pay starting about JD.340 plus Dependency allowance, plus Provident Fund of about JD.80 per month payable at end of service; as well as compulsory medical insurance.

(b) Assists with marine, vehicle, fire and other insurance required by the Agency; processes and follows up on claims from insurers; collects, verifies, processes data related to insurance matters including entry into and verification of PC records; monitors related shipping documentation; generally, performs all assisting functions for effective insurance coverage of Agency property of all kinds.

(c) Essential & highly desirable qualifications: University degree in Business Administration or related discipline; course work in insurance. At least five years experience in supply operations of which at least three years must have been insurance claims processing at responsible level; demonstrated ability to operate PCs and standard software and applications as used in the Agency. Very good knowledge of English and Arabic is essential.

Applications must be in English and accompanied by a duly completed United Nations Personal History Form (available from UNRWA or U.N. offices), must mention the post for which the application is made, and should be submitted by close of business (15:00 hrs) on Thursday, 26 January 1995 to:

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UNRWA welcomes applications equally from men and women. Full consideration will be given to disabled candidates whose disability does not mitigate the effective performance of the duties of the job. Priority will be given to fully qualified Palestinians.



Minnesota Timberwolves guard #44 Winston Magic's Shaquille O'Neal standing over him Garland can't get a shot off with Orlando (AFP photo)

Pistons no match for Magic, despite Shaquille's flu

AUBURN HILLS, Michigan (R) — Overmatched and undermanned, the Detroit Pistons had nothing going for them except Shaquille O'Neal's flu. It wasn't enough.

O'Neal scored 10 of his 23 points during a 16-4 second-quarter run that blew the game open and Anfernee Hardaway added 26 points as the Orlando Magic cruised to a 108-88 win Sunday.

"That was the ugliest 23 points I've scored," O'Neal said. "I was really weak and tired. I'm hoping a day off will help. I really didn't get warm until the second quarter and even that didn't last that long."

Orlando has won nine of its last 10 games, including four straight, and has the best record in the league (26-6). The Pistons, who lost their eighth straight, were without rookie forward Grant Hill, who has an injured left foot. The Pistons fell for the 13th time in their last 14 games and have a six-game home losing slide.

Detroit had already lost three key players — point guard Lindsey Hunter (broken ankle) and centres Mark West (arthroscopic knee surgery) and Oliver Miller (broken hand).

The Magic.

"It's not easy to get up for

games like this," said Orlando coach Brian Hill. "But we're looking at it as a challenge, because we know everybody wants to knock us off now."

O'Neal was 7-of-11 from the line and 8-of-16 from the field in just 31 minutes. "Shaquille was very sick last night and this morning," Hill said. "He missed the shoot-around, so I didn't want to use him any more than I had to."

Hardaway was 8-of-13 from the floor and Horace Grant added 14 points and 14 rebounds.

"I was kind of scared about this game," said Hardaway. "You don't want to come in and lose to a team that's this beat up. We knew they would play very hard because they were so badly overmatched talent-wise."

Detroit was led by Joe Dumars' 19 points. "We hung in there pretty tough at first, but they had more people and just wore us down," a disappointed Dumars said. "It's hard playing with nine. We don't have enough people to go out and compete."

In New York, Patrick Ewing and Hubert Davis each had 22 points to pace the Knicks to their season-high sixth straight win, 102-87 over the Minnesota Timber-

wolves.

John Starks added 21 points for New York, which extended its winning streak over Minnesota to eight games.

Isiah Rider had 21 points and Greg Foster added 15 to lead the Timberwolves, who have dropped five straight.

Davis was 7-of-8 from the field, including a career-high 6-of-7 from 3-point range. The Knicks tied a team-record with 12 3-pointers (12-of-24).

In Denver, Reggie Williams hit a 3-pointer in overtime to give the Nuggets the lead for good in a 102-96 victory over the Milwaukee Bucks.

Williams, Robert Pack and Bryant Stith each scored 16 points for the Nuggets, who have won four straight against the Bucks.

Glenn Robinson had 21 points and Eric Murdock netted 20 for Milwaukee, which has dropped eight of its last 11 games.

The Nuggets sent the game into overtime with 8.1 seconds left on a layup by Brian Williams.

Denver had a chance to win the game with fourteenth of a second left, but Stith missed two free throws after Marty Colson was called for a deliberate foul.

The Nuggets still had one more chance to win it after retaining possession on the deliberate foul, but a dunk by Brian Williams came just after time expired.

At Los Angeles, Vladi Divac had 21 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists for his third career triple-double as the surging Lakers won their fifth straight, 122-105 over the Miami Heat.

Anthony Peeler contributed a season-high 23 points off the bench and rookie Eddie Jones scored 20 as the Lakers, who won for the 10th time in 12 games, played their second straight contest without leading scorer Cedric Ceballos. Ceballos missed Friday's game against Milwaukee with back spasms.

Six Lakers scored in double figures, including George Lynch, starting in place of Ceballos, who had 18, Nick Van Exel (17) and Elden Campbell (13).

Glen Rice had 26 points and John Salley added 19 as Miami lost for the fourth time in five games and lowered its road record to a league-worst-2-14.

No hope seen for NHL season

NEW YORK (AFP) — Players and officials expect cancellation of the National Hockey League (NHL) season, suspended for 100 days in a labour dispute, following Sunday's unanimous union rejection of a final offer by owners.

"I don't see any basis for any optimism," NHL veteran player Mike Gartner said. "I still have a slight glimmer of hope. But as it stands right now, I don't know what to base it on."

National Hockey League commissioner Gary Bettman and union director Bob Goodenow will meet here Monday, their first face-to-face talks since December 6, in a last-moment bid to save the season.

Owners have set a noon Tuesday (1700 GMT) deadline for acceptance of their final offer or the season will be wiped out. They had hoped to start a 50-game season on January 16.

But each side has rejected the other's so-called final offer with wide gaps in their positions, leaving little room for compromise or reason for talking.

"I don't think there is a reason for optimism," Goodenow said. "We're in a serious, very difficult situation. We have a tremendous amount of work to do. I don't want to give the impression there is closeness. There's wide separation."

"By the same token, it's incumbent on both sides to take every step, exert every bit of energy to see if there isn't some common ground," he added. "There's no question the sport will be hurt if there is no season."

Sunday marked 100 days

AFRICAN SOCCER

Algeria get the better of bitter rivals Egypt

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — Algeria continued their mastery of Egypt in the African Nations' Cup at the weekend, winning a Group 4 qualifying tie 1-0 at home in driving rain.

It was Algeria's first victory in their attempt to reach the 1996 finals, and brought them level on five points with Egypt, who kept top spot because of a vastly superior goal difference.

Egypt have not beaten their North African rivals in the competition since 1969, and the defeat on a muddy July 5 stadium pitch was the fourth in a row against Algeria.

Seeking their first win under coach Rabah Madjer, a former African Footballer of the Year, Algeria broke through in the 17th minute when Bilal Dziri converted a penalty kick.

Algeria, backed by a 50,000 crowd, were the superior side throughout against opponents whose Dutch coach resigned last week because he feared for his safety in Algiers.

Nol De Ruiter quit a 15,000 dollar-a-month post after being advised by the Dutch embassy in Tunisia not to visit Algeria, where Muslim extremists are trying to topple the government.

Algeria had further cause for celebration when nearest rivals Tanzania lost 1-0 in Ethiopia to a first-half goal from Elias Juhar. Sudan defeated Uganda 3-1 in the other group match.

Cameroon, champions twice during the past decade, continue to struggle in Group 1, managing only a goalless draw with improving Malawi in the Atlantic Ocean port of Douala.

The Indomitable Lions have scored only once in three matches and face a difficult game in Zimbabwe later this month.

Zaire achieved their first victory at the fourth attempt, defeating Lesotho 3-0 in Kinshasa after making a dream start when Roger Lukaku scored from a second-minute penalty kick.

Mali retained top spot in Group 6 by winning 3-1 in Botswana while Guinea shrugged off two consecutive defeats to outclass Namibia 3-0 in Conakry, where all the goals came after half-time.

The clash of the Portuguese-speaking nations in Luanda ended in a 1-0 triumph for Angola over Mozambique, Tabla scoring the crucial goal in the 15th minute.

Surprise Group 2 passers Togo could manage only a scoreless stalemate at home to Mauritania but moved one point clear of Liberia, who were idle because Guinea Bissau have withdrawn.

Senegal and Tunisia, the seeded countries, continue to occupy the lowest positions after another goalless deadlock, this time in the southern Senegalese town of Ziguinchor.

Group 3 leaders Ghana were another team not in action, and Sierra Leone moved within two points of the four-time champions by scoring twice within four minutes to overcome Gambia 2-0.

Ibora of Congo opened and closed the scoring in a 3-1 home win over Niger, conceding a 29th-minute own goal and scoring for his team in the 75th minute after Imboula had netted twice.



Argentinian Gabriel Batistuta (top) and his cent by coach Daniel Passarella or face the Japan's Natsuka Satoshi fight for the ball are scored two goals as Argentina won 5-1 Riyadh. Batistuta, who was ordered to have a

Laudrup leads Denmark to victory

RIYADH (AFP) — European champions Denmark beat Saudi Arabia 2-0 Sunday to destroy home hopes of lifting the Intercontinental Cup.

Danish captain Brian Laudrup, who plays for Scotland's Glasgow Rangers, scored the first goal at the end of the first half and substitute Morten Wieghorst, who also plays in Scotland, at Dundee United, scored the second in the last minute of the game.

Denmark, who failed to qualify for the World Cup last summer, dominated the Group-A game.

The Saudis, after a brilliant World Cup in which they beat Belgium and came close to upsetting Holland, were brought down to earth with a bump in their first Intercontinental Cup game, losing 2-0 to Mexico Friday.

With their second defeat Sunday they are out of contention for the title and Denmark play Mexico Tuesday to decide which team goes through to meet the winner of Group-B in the final.

Five minutes after hitting the bar from a 25-yard free kick, Laudrup pierced the defence with a 44th minute burst and slipped the ball cheekily between the goalkeeper and the net post.

Wieghorst, running hard at the defence, added the killer blow in the dying seconds when he shot into the back of

the net from close range. Saeed Owairan created the best chances for the Saudis, but wayward finishing foiled his efforts.

Meanwhile trim-looking Gabriel Batistuta opened Argentina's Cup challenge by giving Japan a footballing short-back-and-sides during a convincing 5-1 win here on Sunday.

Batistuta, ordered to have a haircut by new coach Daniel Passarella or face the axe, scored twice as the Latin American champions extended their unbeaten record since the World Cup.

For Japan, the Group B defeat meant the end of their cup ambitions after losing their opening match 3-0 to African champions Nigeria, who now meet Argentina in the decider.

New coach Daniel Passarella, a former international and traditional disciplinarian, had warned his players he wouldn't select any players with unruly locks, a decision which deprived him of a furious Claudio Caniggia.

One of Passarella's new proteges, however, soon set the ball rolling as Sebastian Rambert claimed his third goal in four internationals just after the half-hour.

Ironically, the goal was set up by the first of two glaring Batistuta blunders.

The Fiorentina-based striker, who had earlier headed

past the post from five metres, lost control of the ball inside the box only for the ball to run away to Rambert, who blasted in a left-foot drive from 10 metres.

Japanese goalkeeper Shigetatsu Matsunaga redeemed himself just before the break, going full length to deny Marcelo Escudero, but he was beaten again in injury time when Arnaldo Ortega produced a classic sidestep at the end of a sweeping move to wrong-foot the defence before lasting home.

If Japan had hoped for some respite in the second period, they did not get it as Argentina scored twice within ten minutes.

Rambert set up the third with a mazy run and shot. Matsunaga's desperate block sending the ball ballooning up in the air and allowing Batistuta to nod the ball over the line.

Then defender Jose Chamot, another Italian exile, cut in off from the left to firm home the fourth.

Kazu Miura, Japan's Genoa-based star, grabbed a 56th minute consolation goal, the side's first in the competition, that was either brilliant or extremely lucky.

He drove a free-kick on the right of the box straight and low at the wall, the defenders obliging by jumping over the ball as they anticipated a chip.

RESULTS			
New York	102	Minnesota	87
Orlando	108	Detroit	88
Denver	102	Milwaukee	96 (OT)
LA Lakers	122	Miami	105

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Soccer

the better
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The indomitable Loko scored only once in three matches and was a difficult game in Zimbal...

Zaire achieved their victory at the tournament, defeating Loko in Kinshasa after a long and hard-fought game. A dream start for Roger Lukaku scored a second-minute penalty...

Mali returned to Group A by winning 3-1 over Senegal. The victory was a surprise as Mali had been defeated in their previous two matches. Senegal's goal was scored by a header from a corner...

The clash of the Portuguese-speaking nations in Lusanda ended in a 1-1 draw. The match was a tactical battle, with both teams playing cautiously...

Senegal and Tunisia, seeded countries, came to occupy the lowest positions after another goal. Senegal's goal was scored by a header from a corner...

Group 3 leaders Ghana were another team to move within two points of the top. They scored twice within the first 15 minutes of the match...

Group 4's Congo opened and closed the scoring at home. They won over Nigeria in a 2-0 victory. The match was a tactical battle, with both teams playing cautiously...

to victory



Al Wihdat's team

Wihdat, Hussein clash today

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The 19th week of the first division soccer championship may prove to be the turning point for this year's competition which will go down in Jordan's sports archives as one of the most competitive seasons.

With only three more weeks to go, the top team is still unknown. Three teams — Al Wihdat, Al Ramtha and Al Hussein — are serious contenders, while Al Faisali's chances are slim. However, Al Wihdat's Tuesday match with Al Hussein may finally narrow down the speculations.

Their first round match had ended in a 1-1 draw.

At the other end of the standings, Al Arabi's match with Kufroum will probably have a major bearing in deciding the fourth team to be relegated. Eighth-placed Al Arabi need a win to nearly secure their place in the division and leave 9th placed Al Qadissieh, a fourth placed finisher last season, almost certain to drop!

newcomer, Kufroum, has defied expectations and managed to upset top teams and maintain a half-way standing. Their most memorable results are their 2-1 win over Al Hussein and 0-0 draw with Al Wihdat.

In the battle for the competition's top scorer title four players are now tied with 13 goals: Aref Hussein (Al Hussein), Mouaffaq

Abu Hdeib (Al Ramtha), Yousef Obeidat (Kufroum), Al Faisali's Jurey Tadros is second with 11 goals followed by Al Arabi's Ayman Al Omari and Al Ahli's Nari Yadaq with 10 goals.

The Chargers used a powerful ground game and short passes to overcome a 15-point halftime deficit.

Trailing 21-6 at halftime, the Chargers kept the ball out of Miami quarterback Dan Marino's hands for most of the second half with more than 20 minutes of ball possession.

Marino completed 24-of-38 passes for 262 yards and three scores, all in the first half. Keith Jackson caught eight passes for 109 yards and two touchdowns for the Dolphins, who were outgained 202-26 on the ground.

Marino extended his record streak of playoff games with a touchdown pass to 12. In Dallas, Troy Aikman passed for a club playoff-record 337 yards and two touchdowns and running back Blair Thomas replaced the injured Smith and scored two touchdowns.

The Cowboys, who were playing their first playoff game under rookie head coach Barry Switzer and are seeking an unprecedented third straight Super Bowl title, have beaten the 49ers in the last two NFC title games.

Aikman enjoyed the best post-season game by any quarterback in Cowboy history, completing 23-of-30 passes for a club playoff-record 76.7 completion percentage.

"We'll enjoy this one, but we know we've got a big game next week," said Cowboys receiver Michael Irvin, who earlier this week "promised" that the Cowboys would win a third straight Super Bowl. "We'll go into that game like any other and that's with the attitude that we're going to win."

Aikman hit Alvin Harper with an NFL playoff record 94-yard touchdown pass in the first quarter and connected with tight end Scott Galbraith on a one-yard scoring play in the second quarter.

Dallas tight end Jay Novacek set a club playoff record with 11 catches for 104 yards.

Irvin caught six passes for 111 yards and Harper had two receptions for 108 yards for the Cowboys.

The last time three players on the same team had 100 yards in a playoff game was in 1982 when Kellen Winslow, Wes Chandler and Charlie Joiner did it for San Diego against Miami.

Chargers, Cowboys win

SAN DIEGO (R) — They saved the best for last. In the final and only exciting NFL divisional playoff game of the weekend, Stan Humphries threw an eight-yard touchdown pass to Mark Seay with 35 seconds left and the San Diego Chargers barely held on to their first lead of the game to edge the Miami Dolphins 22-21 Sunday.

The Chargers reached the AFC championship game for the first time in 13 years and are one win away from their first Super Bowl appearance. They will play the Pittsburgh Steelers, who routed the Cleveland Browns 29-9 Saturday.

In Sunday's other game, the two-time defending champion Dallas Cowboys romped past the Green Bay Packers 35-9 to set up a showdown in San Francisco against the 49ers for the NFC's Super Bowl berth. San Francisco blew out the Chicago Bears 44-15 Saturday.

But Dallas star running back Emmitt Smith aggravated his hamstring injury and his status is uncertain for next week.

The San Diego-Miami game had a little bit of everything — brilliant passing, pounding running, stout defense, a safety, controversial calls and a last-second field goal attempt.

Miami's Pete Stoyanovich missed a potential game-winning 47-yard field goal with one second left after the Dolphins had used an interference call to move into San Diego territory.

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Euro's top marksmen hit the mark Juventus crush Parma to go top

PARIS (AFP) — Mystery man Fabrizio Ravanelli, re-born Ivan Zamorano and Patrice Loko made sure this was a weekend for Europe's leading teams. Ravanelli emerged from Roberto Baggio's shadow to hoist Juventus to the top of the Italian League while Zamorano's first-half hat-trick helped top Spanish side Real Madrid to a revenge 5-0 mauling of Barcelona in the performance of the week.

Loko, meanwhile, hit three of his own as unbeaten Nantes continued their French League stranglehold. Ravanelli is perhaps the lesser known of the trio but, with teammate Baggio injured, he made a name for himself with two goals, the first a brilliant header and the second a penalty, in the 3-1 win at second-placed Parma.

For Dino Baggio, the former "Juve" favourite who joined Parma this season, there was the meagre consolation of scoring the opening goal of the game. To make matters worse for Parma, Fernando Couto was sent off for two bookings.

Juventus now lead Serie A by two points, while AS Roma kept in touch in third with a 2-1 win over Bari, Argentinian Abel Balbo getting their first goal and his eighth of the season.

Next-placed Fiorentina, however, mysteriously crashed 1-0 at Torino — despite two goals from their record-breaking scorer Gabriel Batistuta. (Batistuta, unfortunately, was not playing on the same pitch. He was inspiring Argentina at the time to a 5-1 Intercontinental Cup victory over Japan in Saudi Arabia.)

Zamorano's goals, meanwhile — which take him to 17 — must have delighted Real coach Jorge Valdano ... and remained him of his unsuccessful and misguided attempt to offload the Chilean international at the start of the season.

The first came from a powerful angled shot, the next was a neat sidefoot after shrugging off a defender and the third a tap-in set up by Michael Laudrup after snatching possession on the left.

To complete his virtuoso performance, Zamorano then hit the post to pave the way for the fourth and his threaded pass across the area set up the fifth.

Valdano, whose team were beaten by Barcelona by the same margin last January, said: "There was an account to settle and we did just that."

Real now lead the Spanish league by two points, with Zaragoza in second after losing 3-2 at Compostela. Barcelona and Johan Cruyff are left moping in fourth.

Controversial electronic line system stays

PERTH, Australia (AFP) — An electronic line system strongly condemned by some top players will be retained for the Hopman Cup tennis mixed teams' event, tournament director Paul McNamee said Sunday.

McNamee was emphatic that organisers would not yield to criticism from such leading players as Germany's triple Wimbledon champion Boris Becker and up-and-coming Ukraine star, Andrei Medvedev, ranked 15th in the world.

Becker and Medvedev pulled no punches in their assessment of the system after Germany had beaten Ukraine in the final of the 12-nation competition at Burswood Dome Saturday.

"I disliked it very much," said Becker. "It made many mistakes."

"We should stick to people on the lines," said Medvedev.

But McNamee shrugged off the players' complaints about the system, introduced at the previous year's tournament but not yet employed in any other international competition.

"I was very happy with it," he said. "I accept it is not perfect, but there have been many fewer mistakes than when we used people on the lines."

"We definitely plan to use the system against next year."

The system, developed by a South Australian company, is aimed at eliminating the human error element from line calls.

The balls are impregnated with microscopic particles of metal which trigger a beep when the ball passes over the line.

But Becker, Medvedev and some other players say the failure rate with the system is unacceptable high.

Becker was the most outspoken, saying: "Sometimes the ball was so far out the line system could not pick it up. A human eye would not have made such a mistake."

"I believe we should go back to linesmen and women and keep it that way. We should stick to what we have done for more than 100 years."

Loko, meanwhile, upped his season's account to 15 in France, his treble coming in the first 45 minutes just as Zamorano's had done, as Lille were wiped out. Paris Saint Germain, in second place, were also wiped out at Sochaux ... by snowfalls.

Their inactivity left Nantes, still unbeaten this season, on 48 points and seven clear of the Parisians, who face them in a do-or-die encounter on Wednesday.

Elsewhere, France's footballers were behaving badly, with seven players sent off.

In Portugal, it was stay as you were as Sporting Lisbon won 2-1 away at Desportivo Chaves to stay alongside FC Porto at the top on 28 points. The latter, however, increased their goal difference advantage with a 5-2 demolition of Salgueiros Porto, Domingos grabbing two goals as the home side hit four goals in the first 25 minutes.

Holland's weekend matches were all cancelled due to bad weather.

Leading scorers in Italian League

- 14 - Gabriel Batistuta (Fiorentina)
- 9 - Abel Balbo (Roma)
- 8 - Giuseppe Signori (Lazio), Sandro Tofalieri (Bari)
- 7 - Gianfranco Zola (Parma)
- 6 - Rudi Gullit (Milan and Sampdoria), Ruben Sosa (Inter), Gianluca Vialli (Juventus)
- 5 - Massimo Agostini (Napoli), Dino Baggio and Marco Branca (Parma), Pierpaolo Bresciani (Foggia), David Platt (Sampdoria), Fabrizio Ravanelli (Juventus), Marco Simone (Milan).

Leading scorers in Spanish First Division

- 17 - Ivan Zamorano (Real Madrid)
- 12 - Meho Kodro (Real Sociedad)
- 9 - Pedrag Mijatovic (Valencia)
- 8 - Davor Suker (Sevilla), Jose Amavisca (Real Madrid)
- 7 - Ronald Koeman (Barcelona), Vladimir Gudelj (Celta), Juan Esnider (Real Zaragoza), Angel Cuellar (Real Betis), Carlos Munoz (Real Oviedo)
- 6 - Hristo Stoichkov (Barcelona), Florin Raducioiu and Jordi Lardin (Espanol), Bent Christensen (Compostela), Juan Pizzi (Tenerife), Julio Salinas (Deportivo Coruna), Kiko Narvaez (Atletico Madrid).

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Austria's Anita Wachter

Wachter seeks to atone for Super-G crash

FLACHAU, Austria (R) — Austrian Anita Wachter, who crashed out of a giant slalom Sunday with victory in her grasp, heads the field for Tuesday's women's super-giant slalom.

The former overall world cup holder led after the first leg in Haus but fell towards the end of the second leg, yielding first place to Italy's Olympic champion Deborah Compagnoni.

On Saturday Wachter won Austria's first women's World Cup race since Ulrike Maier was killed in a downhill nearly a year ago.

After early season problems with new skis, Wachter took second place in a giant slalom in Alta Badia and fourth place in Meribel to boost her confidence.

"The last results were the sort of injection I needed and I think I'm back on course now," Wachter said after Saturday's win.

"I didn't believe I could win today but I'm glad I finally broke the spell."

The Super-G will also present an opportunity for Germany's Katja Seizinger, winner of a Super-G in Lake Louise, Canada, last December and currently third overall in the World Cup standings, to challenge Switzerland's Heidi Zeller-Baehler for the leadership.

Seizinger pushed the Swiss into third place in the Super-G in Haus but Zeller-Baehler pulled further ahead in the overall standings with her second place in Sunday's giant slalom.

Women's World Cup holder Vreni Schneider of Switzerland, currently overall second, will also compete on Tuesday despite generally avoiding speed events.

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GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMAR HINCH

SEVER THE LINK

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH

♠ 6 ♠ 10 9 8 5 3

♦ A K 4

WEST

♠ K 10 9 8 2 ♠ Q 7 4

♦ Q 7 ♠ 8 2

♥ 9 5 2 ♠ Q J 10 7 6

♠ 8 2 ♠ K 4

SOUTH

♠ A 5 3

♦ 8 3

♥ A J 10 9 7 5 3

The bidding:

North East South West

1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

2 ♥ Pass 3 NT Pass

4 NT Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ten of ♠

Even expert pairs sometimes get

their wires crossed and arrive at the wrong spot. However, you still have to capitalize on the error by defeating the contract.

The intent of North's raise to four no trump is a mystery—we suspect it might have been ace-asking. No matter. The result was a rather inelegant contract and North must shoulder the blame for making an ambiguous bid that led to a catastrophe. Had we wanted to try for slam, we would have chosen four diamonds as our move.

West led the ten of spades, ducked around the table. The nine was covered by the jack and queen, declarer ducking again. The defense was at the crossroads.

Had East routinely continued

with a spade, the contract would have been made. Declarer would win out from the diamond from the table and lead a heart, fessing the ten if West followed low. Since the defenders' communications were shattered, South would emerge with 10 tricks—six hearts, two diamonds and the black-suit ace.

Unfortunately, for South, sitting in the East seat was the Senior Editor of the Goren Editorial Board, Tom Smith of Greenwich, Conn. He found the fendish shift to a low club.

If declarer wins the trick in dummy, the table will be stranded with a loser in each red suit. Rising with the ace of clubs and forcing out the king is equally futile. With no entry back to hand to cash the clubs, East can simply exit with a red suit and declarer must lose one more trick.

Cinema	Tel.: 634144	Cinema	Tel.: 699238	Cinema	Tel.: 677420	Tel.: 618274 - 618275	Tel.: 675571	Nabil & Hisham's	Tel.: 625155
PHILADELPHIA		PLAZA		CONCORD		AMMOUN THEATRE		Nabil Al Mashini Theatre	AHLAN THEATRE
Jim Carrey in THE MASK Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30		Julia Roberts/Nick Nolte in I Love Trouble Shows: 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 The Lion King Shows: 10:30, 12:30, 3:30, 5:00		CONCORD '1' Sylvester Stallone/Sharon Stone... in THE SPECIALIST Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30 CONCORD '2' SLEEP WALKER Shows: 3:15, 5:15		will soon present: Mousa Hijazin (SUM'AA) in the satirical political comedy: Hi Citizen	Presents Abu Awwad in the social comedy Punctured Bag The theatre is closed on Mondays Tickets are available all day	Presents: The political satire: Al Salam Ya Salam. Daily at 8:30 Saturday & Sunday is the theatre's holiday. in English Sunday January 15, 1995	

Algerian parties to present plans to resolve crisis

ROME (Agencies) — Algerian political figures meeting here said Monday that they planned to submit proposals to the Algerian people in view of resolving the political crisis and fundamentalist violence wracking their country.

Abdul Nour Ali Yahia, a spokesman for the delegates and president of the Algerian Human Rights League, said the meeting was taking place in Rome under the auspices of the Roman Catholic Sant'Egidio community because "conditions for a real dialogue that would guarantee the participation of all parties, without exclusion, do not actually exist in Algeria."

The legal and illegal opposition parties taking part in the talks include the outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) represented by Anwar Haddam, a FIS leader exiled in the United States.

Former Algerian President Ahmad Ben Bella was also in Italy, presumably to attend the talks which began Sunday.

Several other political figures were expected to arrive here this week. Mr. Ali Yahia said he still had hope that the FIS representative in Europe Rabah Kebit, based in Germany, would be allowed to travel to Italy.

He added that the FIS was seriously interested in ending the campaign of bloodshed that gripped the country after the military intervened in January 1992 to cancel the second round of general elections the FIS was poised to win.

"We are working with the view of making proposals to the Algerian people," Mr. Ali Yahia said.

The Algerian government has denounced the meeting as a means of meddling in the country's internal affairs and refused to send a representative.

But Mario Marazziti, spokesman for the Sant'Egidio community which served as mediator in the talks that ended Mozambique's civil war in October 1992, said the aim was not to interfere in Algerian affairs but rather to help resolve the political crisis.

Another Algerian opposition leader said on Monday that violence in his country could no longer be contained and urged negotiations with the army-backed government.

"We should end this disastrous spectacle for which, though in different ways, both the government and Muslim extremists are responsible," said Hocine Ait

Ahmad, secretary of the Socialist Forces Front (FFS).

"The hijacking of the Air France plane confirmed that violence cannot be contained within Algeria," Mr. Ait Ahmad told Italian radio.

"The talks should produce a concrete, democratic and peaceful plan to begin negotiations with the government," he said. He also urged parliamentary elections.

Sant'Egidio hosted a first round of talks among Algerian opposition leaders in November.

The community said on Saturday that fresh meetings were needed after an escalation in violence, including the hijacking of an Air France Airbus on Dec. 24 and the killings of four Roman Catholic priests three days later.

Western intelligence sources estimate that up to 30,000 Algerians have been killed in civil strife since the army cancelled the 1992 general election.

Nearly 70 foreigners have been killed by guerrillas since late 1993.

Algerian President Liamine Zeroul tried late last year to resolve the crisis through dialogue with Muslim fundamentalist leaders but his attempt failed.

Meanwhile, trial dates have been set for a senior FIS official and for one of the sons of the fundamentalist movement's leader Abassi Madani, Algerian judicial officials said.

Abdul Kader Hachani, head of the FIS provisional executive bureau, is to appear before the Algerian special court on Jan. 28 charged with publishing false information harmful to national interests and unity.

Mr. Hachani was arrested in January 1992 after signing a statement calling on soldiers to take part in a disobedience campaign. He has staged a number of hunger strikes to protest his detention since then without trial.

Mr. Madani's son Okba is to appear before the same court two days later charged with setting up "armed terrorist" groups. He was arrested in August 1993 in a hotel in Oran in western Algeria.

His brothers Iktal, Osama and Selmane have been sentenced to death in their absence by the Algiers court in connection with the bombing of the capital's international airport in May of that year.

Their father is under house arrest.

Syrian arms dealer tried for Achille Lauro hijack

MADRID (R) — Syrian arms dealer Monzer Al Kassar went on trial on Monday charged with piracy in connection with the 1985 hijacking by Palestinian guerrillas of the Italian liner Achille Lauro in which an American was killed.

The prosecutor has asked for 29 years in jail for Mr. Kassar, who is alleged to have financed and supplied arms to the Palestinian Liberation Front, led by Mohammad Abbas (Abu Abbas), whose guerrillas seized the ship in Egyptian waters on Oct. 7, 1985.

At the start of the hearing Mr. Kassar denied the charge, insisting his arms dealings were legal and denying he knew or had done business with Abu Abbas.

The four Achille Lauro hijackers demanded the release of Palestinian prisoners in exchange for the 600 passengers.

In the course of the hijack an American was killed.

The hijackers finally surrendered to Egyptian authorities, but a plane laid on to fly them to safety in Tunis was intercepted by United States fighters and forced to land in Italy, where the guerrillas were arrested.

The ill-fated Achille Lauro was destroyed by fire off Somalia during a cruise late last year.

Mr. Kassar, 49, who has lived in Spain since 1983 and is known as the "prince of Marbella" because of his opulent lifestyle, told reporters on arrival at Madrid's

high court he was confident justice would be done.

"Here I am as I always promised," he said. "I have confidence in justice. I have waited a long time for this day and God is great."

On Sunday the court formally ordered that Mr. Kassar continue at liberty on bail of some \$7 million, set 18 months ago, as it did not see "sufficient reason to think the accused will not appear for the hearing."

In earlier written evidence to the court, the prosecutor said Mr. Kassar's sympathy with Arab states in their conflict with Israel "led him to take an attitude of positive collaboration with the Palestine Liberation Front."

He alleged Mr. Kassar travelled in the summer of 1985 from Marbella to Warsaw, where he had an arms store, collected four Kalashnikov AK-47 rifles and eight grenades and delivered them to Abu Abbas in Tunis.

Mr. Kassar was arrested in June 1992 on the orders of investigating Judge Baltasar Garçon on suspicion of links with "international terrorism," illegal possession of arms, trading in stolen cars and forging documents.

He was remanded in custody, his bank accounts were blocked and his property, including several Costa del Sol villas, was confiscated.

A year later he was granted bail while investigation of his alleged links with the Achille Lauro affair continued.

The trial is expected to last at least two weeks.



CONGRATULATIONS: Prime Minister from ex-Premier Abdul Salam Majali and Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and members of his cabinet on Monday receive congratulations



NEWS IN BRIEF

Mortar kills pro-Israeli militiaman

TEL AVIV (AFP) — A member of a pro-Israeli militia died and a Jewish soldier was lightly wounded during fighting with Islamic fundamentalist guerrillas in southern Lebanon on Monday, military officials said. Shelling killed the militiaman from the South Lebanon Army while the Israeli was hurt in an attack on the edge of the "security zone" Israel occupies in Lebanon. In Tyre, Lebanese police said the Hizbollah group fired 18 shells and 10 anti-tank rockets at an Israeli position near Rafah, at the northern limit of the zone. Israeli artillery opened up in response lobbing some 40 shells on two villages under the sway of Hizbollah. Hizbollah issued a statement claiming it had inflicted heavy casualties when its guerrillas set off several bombs as an Israeli armoured patrol just one kilometre from the Lebanon-Israel border. "The 20 members of the patrol were killed and wounded in an exchange of fire which followed the explosions," the statement said. Hizbollah said the patrol included two personnel carriers, a tank and a mine-sweeping vehicle.

Arafat laments lack of Palestinian 'Rothschild'

CAIRO (AFP) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat said Sunday the self-rule authority needed a rich Palestinian benefactor to help develop the autonomous areas, just as Zionism prospered from the aid of Baron Edmond de Rothschild before Israel came into being in 1948. "There are dozens of Palestinians as capable as Rothschild, but so far no Palestinian Rothschild has emerged," Mr. Arafat told the Saudi daily Al Sharq Al Awsat, published here Sunday. "Rich Palestinians have started coming forward" to help rebuild Gaza and Jericho, Mr. Arafat said, "but I expect more from them — they must join in the construction of the country of their children and grandchildren. He said the Palestinian Authority was holding talks with Palestinian businessmen. Mr. Arafat also lamented the failure of international donors to fulfil aid pledges to the Palestinians.

Iran, S. Arabia agree ties need improving

NICOSIA (R) — A senior Iranian official was quoted on Monday as saying his country and Saudi Arabia agreed that relations were unsatisfactory and the two countries needed to boost strategic cooperation. First Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Hashemi, a brother of Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, told the Iranian daily Jomhuri Islami he discussed talks with the Saudi Arabian envoy to Iran last week. "We also agree that the current relations between the two countries are not satisfactory," he told the daily in an interview published by the official Iranian news agency IRNA. "Bilateral relations should be enhanced to a logical level and that relations between Tehran and (Riyadh) should lead to long-term and strategic cooperation," he added. Ties between the two regional powers have been tense since Iran's 1979 Islamic revolution, deteriorating when Iran criticises Saudi Arabia's handling of the annual pilgrimage to holy sites in the Kingdom.

Iranian navy holds manoeuvres in Gulf

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iranian Revolutionary Guards and the regular navy on Monday began sea diving exercises in the northern Gulf, officials said. The five-day manoeuvres, code-named "Abkavan-73," involved mainly mine-searching operations, underwater destruction and explosions as well as shore-launched attacks on the mock-enemy ships, they said. Iranian forces regularly stage war games in the Gulf and the Sea of Oman.

Ex-minister Sharon calls for settlers to patrol roads

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Former Defence Minister Ariel Sharon called on Israeli settlers Sunday to form "volunteer" vigilante units to boost security on the West Bank. His plea came at the funeral of an Israeli woman from a Jewish settlement killed by Palestinians on Friday, on the main Jerusalem-Nablus road. "Since the government does not want to or cannot fight terrorism as it should, we have to organise volunteers to monitor security along the main roads," Mr. Sharon told several thousand settlers at the funeral in Elon Moreh, in the north of the occupied West Bank. Settler representatives bitterly criticised the government of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, accusing of encouraging anti-Israeli attacks by signing the autonomy accords with the PLO.

Egyptian police kill 3 suspected militants

ASSIUT (Agencies) — Egyptian police shot dead three youths thought to be Muslim militants in an exchange of fire in southern Egypt on Monday, security sources said.

The youths, aged 17, 20 and 22, had been hiding in an abandoned building in the middle of fields near Saw village in Assiut province about 280 kilometres south of Cairo.

Police believe they were members of the military wing of the militant Gamaa Al Islamiyah (Islamic Group), the largest organisation fighting the security forces, the sources said.

A police unit came across them while searching the fields and an exchange of fire broke out. In the building police found two automatic weapons, a revolver, a forged passport and money including U.S. dollars, they added.

The arrests said police thought the youths had recruited new members for the Gamaa and had handled contacts between Gamaa units in Assiut and those in other provinces along the Nile Valley as far north as Cairo.

In a shootout on the outskirts of Cairo on Sunday, police shot dead five suspected Muslim militants. It was the first operation against militants in the capital this year.

Later on Sunday gunmen shot dead a sugar factory worker in the south and security sources said they suspected militants attacked him in the belief he was collaborating with the police.

One woman passerby was injured in the attack, which took place in the village of Esfay in Minya province, about 240 kilometres south of Cairo, they said.

The latest deaths bring the death toll from political violence in Egypt to about 700 since the Gamaa began a campaign to overthrow the government in 1992.

On Sunday, police arrested 18 suspected Islamic militants in Cairo, acting on information from militants on trial for the attempted murder of the author Naguib Mahfouz.

Police officials said 17 of the suspects were arrested in raids in the Medinat Nasr, Ain Shams and Maatariyah districts of Cairo.

Another suspect, Mohammad Rifai, was arrested in the south of the city as he distributed leaflets denouncing the detention of an Islamist journalist, Adel Hussein.

France dismisses criticism against ties with Baghdad

PARIS (Agencies) — France on Monday rejected American and British criticism of its decision to open an interests section in Baghdad nearly four years after the Gulf war, saying both already had low-level links with Iraq. We have been very surprised by the British and American comments at the announcement of the opening of a French interests section in Baghdad," French foreign ministry spokesman Richard Dague told reporters.

Washington and London expressed concern that Paris's decision last week might encourage Iraq to flout peace terms imposed after the 1991 Gulf war ejected Iraqi troops from Kuwait.

"An Iraqi interests section has been opened in London since 1991 while the Iraqi interests section opened in Paris only in September 1993," Mr. Dague said.

"The American reaction is even more astonishing as the United States itself has, in Baghdad since 1991, a set-up operating in the buildings of the U.S. embassy under the Polish flag," he said.

"The French interests section will be different only by the presence of a French diplomat with a very small staff," he said.

Last Friday Paris received a senior Iraqi leader, Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz, for the first time since the war and said it was opening the interests section in the Romanian embassy in Baghdad.

The U.S. State Department attacked the decision. "Now is not the time to make gestures towards Iraq," said spokeswoman Christine Shel-

ly. "We don't consider it helpful or constructive," she said. In London, the "Foreign Office said: 'This is not the moment to relax the pressure on Iraq to comply fully with U.N. requirements,'" adding: "There has been no prior European Union coordination" on reopening relations with Baghdad.

Mr. Dague said that "all European capitals were informed before the announcement of the French decision."

He had given the message to a Moroccan minister who recently visited Baghdad, the daily added.

According to Israel's military radio station, the message was transmitted through a liaison bureau which Israel opened in Rabat last year.

Government sources said several similar reports from Baghdad had reached Israel in recent weeks via other channels.

Israel and Iraq have both repeatedly denied reports of secret contacts between the two countries.

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COLUMN

U.S. freshmen apolitical, smoke more, drink less

WASHINGTON (AFP) — First-year college students are less interested in politics than their peers in the past, are smoking more cigarettes and marijuana but drinking less, according to a survey released Sunday. The percentage of incoming freshmen who said that "keeping up with political affairs" was an important goal dropped to 31.9 per cent this year, the lowest percentage since the survey was started 29 years ago. A declining percentage said that community activism was important to them. Support for legalising marijuana rose for the fifth year, to 32.1 per cent, while interest in drinking beer, wine and hard liquor fell. A total of 53.2 per cent, an all-time low, reported drinking beer in the past year. That figure is down from 54.4 per cent in 1993 and 75.2 per cent in 1981. While incoming college students were more likely to drink alcohol than smoke cigarettes, smoking seemed to be on the rise. A total of 12.5 per cent of those surveyed in 1994 said they frequently smoked tobacco, up from 11.6 last year. In addition, many students reported feeling increasingly stressed. A total of 24.1 per cent said they "felt overwhelmed" and 9.5 per cent felt depressed. The survey of 333,703 students from 670 schools was done for the Higher Education Research Institute at the University of California at Los Angeles.

Faithful flock to graceland

MEMPHIS, Tennessee (R) — "It's an Elvis thing," said Dawn Smyth as she knelt and placed a birthday card, a teddy bear and a rose at the grave site of Elvis Presley, the king of rock 'n' roll. Smyth, who came from Chicago to acknowledge Presley's 60th birthday Sunday, said she is typical of Elvis fans who agree there is a special aura about the king's home. Her act of devotion was only one of many during a mass celebration at Graceland mansion, Presley's famed home, honoring the late singer's 60th birthday. With a cake fit for a king awaiting them, nearly 5,000 fans descended on Memphis Friday for a three-day event. They sang happy birthday to their idol, ate from 17 sheet cakes, listened to Elvis music and snapped photos.

U.S. high school principal heads for court

MONTGOMERY, Alabama (R) — A federal judge this week will be asked to decide the fate of a former Alabama high school principal who tried to ban interracial dating and allegedly called a mixed-race student "a mistake." The principal, Hnold Humphries, thrust Randolph County High School and the tiny eastern Alabama hamlet of Wedowee into the national spotlight last February by threatening to cancel the annual high school dance if interracial couples planned to attend. The controversy forced the school board into a \$25,000 out-of-court settlement in June with former junior class president Revonda Bowen, who has a white father and a black mother and who maintained that Mr. Humphries called her "a mistake" during a school assembly. Mr. Humphries has emphatically denied the accusation. Racial tensions in Wedowee reached a new peak last August when arson destroyed the high school building and the national media flocked to the town to cover a federal investigation of the blaze. The Randolph County school board, which reassigned Mr. Humphries to an administrative job after a black television cameraman accused the principal of roughing him up, has since agreed with the U.S. Justice Department to bring school policies in line with outstanding court orders against racial segregation. However, the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People (NAACP) and a group of Randolph County parents, in a motion against the school board that has been joined by the Justice Department, are expected to ask U.S. district Judge Myron Thompson to fire Mr. Humphries.

Donkey-cart explodes near W. Bank settlement

GAZA (Agencies) — A bomb exploded in a donkey cart as an Israeli bus passed it in the Gaza Strip on Monday just hours before Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres were to meet, Israeli security sources said.

No one aboard the bus was injured but Israeli troops put the cart's wounded driver under custody as he received medical treatment, the sources said.

The blast in the centre of Gaza came several hours before Mr. Arafat and Mr. Peres were to discuss the troubled Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace deal at the Erez crossing in the north of the Palestinian self-rule enclave of Gaza.

The sources said the bomb exploded when an Israeli bus guarded by border police passed the wagon south of the Kfar Darom Jewish settlement.

The beast died in the blast, Palestinian witnesses said.

An Israeli schoolbus was close to the explosion which shattered several windows in the vehicle although the passengers escaped unhurt, military officials said.

Witnesses said Palestinian hardliners attached an explosive device to the donkey and sent it towards Morag.

The army sent reinforcements into the area between Rafah and Khan Yunes and launched a manhunt, military officials said.

Palestinian hardliners have frequently used explosives, sometimes carried by suicide bombers, as part of their campaign against the Middle East peace process.

The army has repeatedly warned Israelis to beware of booby-trapped animals as well as suicide bombers.

Israeli soldiers guarding Kfar Darom blocked the main road and checked Arab cars.

Palestinian self-rule was set up in most of Gaza and in the West Bank town of Jericho in May. The interim PLO-Israeli peace deal providing autonomy allows Jewish settlements to remain in place.

Drawn-out negotiations have delayed the next stages of the peace deal — "Palestinian elections, Israeli troop redeployment away from Palestinian population centres in still-occupied areas of the West Bank and extension of self-rule to the rest of the West Bank.

Asked what connection there was between Sudan and Afghanistan, Mr. Morad said: "Both peoples are Muslim and both governments are members of the U.N. and the Organisation of Islamic Conference."

The four-man Sudanese delegation headed by Sheikh Yasin Imam, includes Imam Hassan Omar, political advisor to the Sudanese president, Sudanese ambassador to Afghanistan Ibrahim Sulaiman, and a Syrian Islamist, Sa'aduddin.

At issue is the transfer of power from Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani, whose two-year term expired Dec. 28, and the establish-